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The present issue is the first number of Volume XXX of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. Cases for binding Volume XXIX can be supplied post free for 2s 6d. each. Members can have their CIRCULARS bound for the inclusive charge of 3s. 6d. on sending them, carriage paid to the Secretary, The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Spring-backed filing cases to hold the issues for the current year as published can be obtained at the same address post free, 2s. 6d. each.

### OUR SUGAR SUPPLIES.

NOT so very long after the Government took over the control of our sugar supplies in August last, with a view of preventing a threatened corner, it was generally understood that sufficient sugar had been purchased for seven or eight months consumption. If this surmise is correct, the question of the future will shortly come under consideration, and it will have to be decided whether the present State monopoly is to be continued or whether the market is again to be free and unfettered. It will be recalled that, soon after the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies was appointed to deal with the situation, the imports of sugar were prohibited altogether. This was done ostensibly with the desirable object of preventing the German and Austrian sugar

producers marketing their produce, either by sending it to us through neutral countries, or by supplying sugar for consumption in neutral countries to replace the produce of those countries which might be sent to the United Kingdom. As far as the colonies were concerned grocery and molasses sugars were the only ones which were in danger of suffering from this prohibition, the United Kingdom markets being already closed to refining sugar in consequence of the arrangements between the Government and refiners, whereby the latter were compelled to purchase State sugar only; and the representations of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE resulted in licenses for the importation of these two classes of sugar being given in a liberal spirit. Provided that this principle is maintained it is improbable that a continuance of the Government's present sugar policy will prejudicially affect the British West Indies. But whether it is a sound policy or not it is too early to say. Statistical tables show that the Government bought at the top of the market. The cessation of their purchases was followed by such a slump in prices that sugar could have been purchased by consumers at a price far lower than that asked by the Government, but for the prohibition. Indeed, as we ventured to suggest, there was good reason to believe that the Government in prohibiting imports were prompted not only by the desire to prevent the enemy from marketing their produce, but to a great extent to protect themselves from loss over their purchases. Otherwise, it is inconceivable that they would have prohibited colonial sugar, for it would have been easy for them to obtain assurances that no enemy sugar would enter the colonies. In this connection it is rather a curious and significant fact that the Government, finding, probably, that the capacity of the British refiners was not sufficient to meet the demands should itself be importing Dutch refined sugar; and one is disposed to ask, what steps are being taken to prevent this sugar being replaced in Holland by enemy produce? But although the various sugar trade reviews for 1914 criticise the Government's sugar policy, it is, we think, premature to do so. Until the State monopoly is ended, or until we have had a year's experience of it, it would hardly be fair to pass final judgment upon it. One fact, however, stands out clear, and that is, that but for the deplorable *laissez faire* attitude of successive British Governments in the past towards sugar—the mere mention of which has seemed to strike terror into their hearts—the present state of affairs would never have existed. If any encouragement had been given

to the colonial cane sugar industry there would have been no need for a monopoly with its accompanying prohibition, and we should have had adequate supplies of cane sugar to draw upon from British sources—not only the West Indies—and the £18,000,000 which the British public has been handing year after year to foreigners, and mainly our present enemies, would have found its way into British pockets, and much of it would have been circulated within the Empire. Let us hope that the lesson has now been learned, and that early steps will be taken to render our consumers independent of foreign sugar by according to our colonies a moderate preference, at least equivalent to that now enjoyed by British produced beet, for a definite period of years. Such a preference would ensure an extension of the colonial cane sugar industry, and would benefit producers and consumers alike. To this end the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE is working, and we trust that every one of our readers will help to bring it about by advocating the policy on every possible occasion, and by impressing its reasonableness upon their Members of Parliament. If the aniline dye trade, which is said to be worth £1,800,000 a year, is worth capturing, how much more is the sugar trade, valued at £18,000,000?

#### ASSISTING THE ENEMY.

**W**E trust that one result of the War will be the overhauling of the British Consular Service, and the removal of the present anomalous state of affairs whereby our Consular Agents in many countries are of foreign extraction, and in several cases even foreigners. Attention has frequently been called to this matter, and His Majesty's subjects over-seas have not infrequently had the painful experience of interviewing a British Consular Agent who could hardly speak the King's English. Regrettable at any time, it is particularly unfortunate that there should be foreigners in our Consular Service while a state of war exists. As an example, let us take Porto Rico. His Majesty's Consul in that island died in August shortly after the outbreak of war, and though nearly five months have elapsed, our only official representative in the island is the Acting Consul, who is not a British subject but a Dane. Though we have not a word to say against this gentleman's reputation and have no reason to doubt his integrity, it certainly does seem unfortunate that, at a time when active measures may be necessary at any moment to prevent a breach of neutrality, His Majesty's consular representative in the island should be a foreigner. We are prompted to make these remarks by a letter which we have received from a British subject resident in Porto Rico, whose views we believe reflect those of many other British residents in the island. Porto Rico being a possession of the United States we do not doubt that it will be the desire of the authorities there to observe the strictest neutrality;

but constant vigilance is necessary to prevent such incidents as enemy warships putting in to coal and staying longer than the prescribed time,—and it was only recently that the *Karlsruhe* put in to coal,—and similar breaches of neutrality. In this connection we have the authority of *El Tiempo*, a newspaper of standing, published in San Juan, for the information that recently a secret wireless station was discovered at Sabana Hoyos in Arceibo. Here alone are two matters which would appear to have called for the prompt attention of His Majesty's Consul. It may be that they have already received it, but the British residents in the island naturally feel some doubts on this point having regard to the fact that their Consul is a foreigner, and is therefore not likely to grasp the full significance and importance of such questions as a British subject would be. While dealing with this subject there is still another matter which seems to us to call for immediate attention, and one which is of paramount importance in connection with the efforts which are being made to check trading with the enemy. It would appear that at the present time no fewer than four great English insurance companies, whose names we could mention, are represented in Porto Rico by German firms, namely GANDIA AND STUBBE, KORBER AND COMPANY, and FRITZE, LUNDT AND COMPANY. Surely this is assisting the enemy, and should at once be stopped. The Germans in Porto Rico, as elsewhere, are intensely patriotic, for which, of course, no one can blame them, and as elsewhere, they are endeavouring to capture the local Press with a view of securing its support in influencing public opinion in their favour. In the circumstances we think that patriotism alone should induce the English insurance companies to substitute British for their German representatives. There are many reliable firms of neutral nationality in the island which are quite competent to undertake the work, even if no British firms can be found to do so, which we doubt, and we trust that if the insurance companies, who will receive copies of this CIRCULAR do not themselves take action pressure may be brought upon them by the Foreign Office to make them do so. Soon after the outbreak of war Lloyd's removed their agency from a German firm—MESSRS. KORBER AND Co.—and the insurance companies should have done the same without any prompting. We certainly do not want to see an increase of German influence in the West Indies, and feel that everything that is possible should be done to check it.

#### THE COCOA PROHIBITION.

**C**ONCURRENTLY with the relaxation of the embargo on tea comes the announcement, as we go to press, of the prohibition of the export of cocoa from this country. The prohibition is not general—as was the case with sugar in the first instance—but applies to all foreign ports in Europe and on the

Mediterranean and the Black Sea, other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic Ports), Belgium, Spain and Portugal. The object presumably is to cut off supplies from enemy countries, and if this is likely to be effected the decision must, and no doubt will, be accepted loyally. But some doubts are felt on this score, and it will be recalled that Mr. RUNCIMAN himself has said in the House of Commons that there was no evidence to show that the prohibition of cocoa would have injured a single German cocoa drinker. In any case it seems clear that unless cacao is made contraband of war, Germany will still be able to import from the United States or from foreign-producing centres. In trade circles in London the view is held that the action of the Government will prevent the consummation of the hope that London may resume its position—which it lost to Hamburg—of being the chief cacao-mart of the Old World—without achieving the desired end.

### THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

#### Passports for Members

Several correspondents having asked whether it is absolutely necessary for passengers to the West Indies to take passports, it may be well to state exactly how the position stands. The shipping companies and the Government embarkation officials insist upon documentary evidence of nationality being produced by all passengers before they can book their passages or embark, and it has been found that passports serve this purpose best. In the circumstances intending passengers are recommended to furnish themselves with them. By a Foreign Office regulation it is now necessary for applicants to supply photographs of themselves in duplicate, one to be retained by the Office and the other to be fixed to the passports, which are obtainable from the Passport Department, Foreign Office, Whitehall, S.W. For the convenience of members of the West India Committee forms of the declaration to be made by applicants are supplied at the Committee Rooms. Applications should reach the Foreign Office before 4 p.m. on the day prior to that on which the passports are to be issued, and the fee of 2s. must accompany the application. The Secretary of the West India Committee, being a Barrister-at-Law, is entitled to, and will be glad to, verify the necessary declarations by members of the Committee who are applicants for passports.

### THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

#### On the Western Front.

Fog, snow, and a terrific hurricane tended to restrict activity for a few days, but, with a little improvement in climatic conditions, progress, if slow, is being continued. The rain is unprecedented for the time of year, and the mud so all-pervading that the Allied soldiers, not only stand in it, sometimes over their boots, but are plastered with it until they are stiff. Then the completeness of the German fortifications and entrenchments are a bar to rapid advance. For instance, in the Perthes region, where the French carried some of the enemy's trenches, they captured enough guns for the defence of a fort. After a long and stubborn resistance, the village of St. George's has been captured by the Allies, who are vigorously strengthening the position. It is another step on the road to Bruges, and the out-flanking of the enemy by way of the coast. The credit for this success is due to the British and Belgians, who hold about thirty miles of the line, which extends for three hundred more across France to Switzerland. In the neighbourhood of Rheims, the weak point of the German front, the French are making satisfactory progress, and, in the Argonne district, are now only six miles from the Meuse. But the most dramatic exploit of the past fortnight was the capture of Steinbach, north-east of Thann, in which the fighting was of the stirring and picturesque kind in war as it used to be. The importance of the place, which had been trodden by the feet of armed men at intervals from time immemorial, is its position on the last spur of the Vosges. Since its occupation the French have taken other points in Alsace, which is excellent from the sentimental, political, and military point of view.

But nowhere in the west is progress more than a record of a trench gained here or regained there after a temporary loss, with the capture of a village now and then, sometimes by fierce house to house fighting as in Steinbach. The trenches being often so close together that it is possible for the occupants to see one another and hear one another speak, the rushes by which advances are made entail heavy loss. From the moment our men leave their shelter they are exposed to a murderous fire from rifles, grenades and mortars. Those who live to reach the German trench have to cut the wire entanglements in front of it, a further costly process. So terrible are the conditions above ground, indeed, that the German dead and wounded are left for days together where they fall, still mounds dark against the green of grass. Our men daily risk their lives to save a fallen comrade from such a fate. The Germans, too, governed by their stark military doctrine, set young and partly-trained troops to rush across the fire-swept zone and cut the wire entanglements, when over their dead bodies, seasoned soldiers leap to hand-to-hand fighting in the trench. In these circumstances both sides are adepts at sapping.

### In the Eastern Theatre.

In Poland the Russian line is practically perpendicular, resisting the German attacks with magnificent courage and endurance. In the north, in the Mława region, our Ally has made a successful counterstroke, and maintains her ground in East Prussia. The Germans, whose strategic railways further west confer mobility on their troops, are hampered between the Vistula and the Pilitza by the want of lateral railways, a want they feel more than the Russians. These carried by assault the village of Sztyniki, which was obstinately defended by the Austrians and compelled them to evacuate the left bank of the Nida, with heavy losses in men and guns. The stand in the Carpathians was short-lived, the retreat in this region becoming more precipitate and disorderly every day. As many as five thousand prisoners were captured in the Dukla Pass and on the Lisko roads alone. The enemy's attempt to transport troops from the vicinity of Czestochowa towards the Carpathians ended in total failure owing to a corresponding move on the part of the Russians, who, thereupon, assumed the offensive. As the Germans, were, also, engaged in the Carpathian district it has become necessary for them to withdraw along their entire eastern front. The flight through the Dukla and Uzok Passes re-opens Hungary to invasion, while the triumphant Russians have reached Bukovina on the Rumanian frontier, and in Transylvania are finding friends. Unless they are decisively checked they may sweep round and join hands with Serbia, which has again defeated the Austrians, who were attempting to land troops near Obrenovatz. In this way Germany and Austria may be cut off from the Rumanian oil-fields.

By the experience of war in other times the enemy should be on the defensive here, but it is one of the features of the present conflict that armies quickly rally from defeat, for instance, the British after Mons, the Austrians after Shabatz, the Belgians after Antwerp, the Germans after Augustowa, the Russians after General von Hindenberg's crushing victory in the Masurian Lakes. And so it may be now. But Germany is no nearer Warsaw and the Russians are advancing in Galicia.

### The Turkish Rout.

When Russia, by a timely move, averted the invasion of her Asiatic Dominions by way of Persia, she forced the Turks to take the road to Kars, the scene of historic fights long ago, through the mountainous country east of Erzeroum. For a fortnight there has been continuous fighting which culminated in a battle at Sarykamysch, resulting in the annihilation of Turkey's finest Army Corps, the Ninth, the rout of another, while a third is being surrounded at Ardagan. The strategy was sound, but forces, separated by hilly country, to converge at the right moment in combined operations, require good staff work, transport, discipline and equipment, and none of these are present in the Ottoman Army. The Turkish soldiers fought with their usual bravery,

but the Russians were the better men in every other military essential. Their triumph is complete, and consternation reigns in Constantinople. From the revelations in the Turkish Yellow Book it is evident that the Empire has been powerless to help itself since the arrival of the German Military Mission and the *Göeben* and *Breslau* to support Berlin's puppet, Enver Bey.

### The Cuxhaven Raid.

This operation was of more than usual interest. In the first place it shows that British sailors are evolving tactics in which seaplanes, submarines, and cruisers can take part in combined action; in the second place that our Navy is advancing its offensive farther into the enemy's country. The little force started from a point in the vicinity of Heligoland, and while the light cruisers waited to pick up the airmen, who were engaged in the task of dropping bombs on Cuxhaven, the German mine-laying base, they were attacked by Zeppelins, submarines and seaplanes. The first were beaten off by gun-fire, the bombs dropped by the second went wide of their mark, and the third were outmanœuvred by the swifter action of the *Arethusa* and *Undaunted*. As all of our airmen returned in safety to the waiting submarines, a brilliant exploit ended without a mishap except to four of our seaplanes, which were sunk. The extraordinary part of the affair was the silence of the Heligoland guns, said to be due to fear of damaging the island, which is in a continual state of erosion. Again, though our vessels were in German waters, under the shadow of a great German fortress no surface vessel came out. The enemy anticipated a trap, such as proved so disastrous to them in the Heligoland engagement. But this time there were no battleships in reserve.

### The Loss of the Formidable.

This battleship, a fine one in her day, was sunk with the loss of 400 gallant lives, by a torpedo off Brixham, near Plymouth, in a furious gale. As in every action or disaster since the outbreak of war the conduct of the officers and men reached a high level of noble beauty, and their glory was shared by the master of the little Brixham trawler, *Providence*, who, by superb seamanship, rescued the *Formidable's* cutter containing 70 survivors almost perished from exhaustion and exposure. He was worthy of his Devon forefathers, who sailed the Spanish Main.

### The American Note.

The protest of the United States against the treatment of American shipping by the British Navy is not going to disturb the two countries, since both are governed by counsels of moderation. But the issue is not going to be settled by amiable expressions of sentiment. It is an ironic commentary on President Wilson's idealism that he should acknowledge no moral obligation in dealing with the matter. His attitude seems to be that the rights and wrongs of the conflict are nothing to him, his sole concern





**DAME EUROPA'S SCHOOL IN TRINIDAD.**

This tableau, which appears to have been based on the very successful ballet now drawing crowded houses to the Empire, was recently presented at an entertainment in another part of the Empire altogether—Trinidad.



**THE BUILDING OF THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD.**

is to see that the United States makes money out of it by trade. The Americans, however, must be made to understand diplomatically that this nation has not won predominance at sea by centuries of effort and sacrifice to allow her Navy to stand by while neutral Powers pour the means of prolonging the war into enemy strongholds. President Wilson admits that cargoes of copper, which is necessary for the manufacture of ammunition, were concealed in bales of cotton, and trade returns show that in Italy, Holland, Denmark and Scandinavia, the importation of copper has gone up by leaps and bounds during the past year. It is not a coincidence that these are the only countries through which Germany and Austria can obtain supplies of food and raw material. The whole question bristles with difficulties, some of them created by the British Government itself, for why was cotton not declared contraband of war? Fortunately, American precedents as late as the Mexican Civil War, support the British contention. But, whatever happens, the Navy must maintain its "strangle-hold" on Germany.

### Aerial Operations.

The French aviators have been as busy as our own. They bombarded the aviation sheds at Prescati and one of the Metz railway stations. So persistent are their raids on Freiburg that the works transferred there from Mulhouse on the outbreak of the war are being re-transferred elsewhere. When one contrasts the work of German and the Allied airmen one cannot but be struck with its ineffectiveness except in the field, where it is excellent. But in distant exploits it lacks the purpose, daring, and adventurousness of the British and French. It has been distinguished by nothing so brilliant as the flight to Frederickshafen, the Zeppelin centre on Lake Constance, or the bomb raids on the aviation works at Brussels and Düsseldorf; the Germans, whatever their intentions may be, damage not military centres, but civilian buildings, involving loss of innocent life, or accomplish nothing as at Sheerness and Dover.

(To be continued).

The South Western Railway Company proposes to supply the capital for a pioneer beet sugar factory if the necessary beets can be guaranteed. The Company has surveyed the soils in Surrey, Hants, Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and large areas are declared to be favourable to the cultivation of sugar beet. Meetings of farmers are to be held. In fact one has already taken place at Salisbury, with the result that the matter has been referred to the South Wilts Chamber of Agriculture. The amount which the railway company are prepared to devote to the factory is £130,000, every accommodation in the direction of sidings and rolling stock being also provided.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list (additions to which will be published from time to time) complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below.

### FOURTH LIST.

- Amphlett, E. B., (Police Magistrate of the Eastern District, Grenada), Adjutant of the Worcestershire Regiment.
- Buchanan, Lieut. H. B., (of "Arden," Tobago, and Throsk, Stirlingshire, N.B., and a member of the West India Committee), The Black Watch.
- Boddam-Whetham, Captain A. C., (Formerly A.D.C. to Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad and Tobago), Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).
- Boddam-Whetham, Lieut. S. A., (Formerly A.D.C. to Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Bahamas), Royal Artillery.
- Clare, 2nd Lieut. Horace Townshend (son of Dr. the Hon. H. L. Clare, Surgeon General of Trinidad and Tobago), R. Battery Reserve Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery.
- Clifton, Major H. A., (partner in the firm of Messrs. S. Dobree and Sons, West India Merchants), the Scottish Horse.
- Cuddeford, Sub-Lieut. F. W. F., (son of Mr. W. Cuddeford, Auditor of the Windward Islands), H.M.S. *Carnarvon*.
- Davidson-Houston, Lieutenant-Colonel, C.M.G., (Commissioner of Montserrat), late Royal Dublin Fusiliers, has returned from Montserrat to rejoin the Army.
- Gordon, Lieut. J. W. N., (son of Mr. W. M. Gordon, Assistant Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago), 5th Battalion, the Black Watch.
- Gordon, Midshipman Oliver L., (son of Mr. W. M. Gordon, Assistant Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago), H.M.S. *Thunderer*.
- Gruchy, L. S., (son of Colonel Gruchy, of the Jamaica Militia), The West African Volunteer Force (Gold Coast).
- Hobson, Lieut. Cyril, (son of Mr. L. M. Hobson of San Fernando, Trinidad), 11th Battalion, the Welsh Regiment.
- Kavanagh, Brigadier-General C. T. McM., C.B., D.S.O., (A.D.C. to Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., when Governor of Jamaica), Brigade Commander, Indian Northern Army.
- Kaye, W. A. G. C., (clerk in the Colonial Bank, Grenada, son of Lieut.-Colonel A. B. R. Kaye, second in Command of the Shropshire Regiment), the Shropshire Regiment.
- Kinnaird, Lieut. The Master of, (partner in the firm of Messrs. S. Dobree and Sons, West India Merchants), the Scottish Horse.
- Lafitte, Midshipman Cecil, (son of Mr. Lafitte, of St. Lucia), H.M.S. *Grafton*.
- Llewellyn, Lieut.-Commander Robert H., (son of Sir Robert Llewellyn, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, 1900-6), H.M.S. *Queen Mary*.
- Lorimer, Private J. S., (son of Mr. W. T. Lorimer of Stroud, and grandson of the late Mr. Robert S. Lorimer, of Pn., Wales, West Bank, Demerara), 28th Battalion, City of London Regiment. *At the Front*.
- Macpherson, Captain E. R., (son of Mr. R. J. Macpherson, of Kingston, Jamaica), The West India Regiment.
- Murray, James, (of Tobago), Field Ambulance Corps.
- Saunders, Lieut. P. T., M.R.C.V.S., (formerly Veterinary Officer to the Imperial Department of Agriculture), Army Veterinary Corps. *At the Front*.

Stewart-Bolan, Corporal Frank, (brother-in-law of Dr. J. Perez, of Trinidad, and Mr. C. S. Kitching, of Dominica), Strathona's Horse, and Orderly to the General Commanding the Canadian Contingent.

### Died of Wounds.

LIEUT. BURFORD-HANCOCK, of the Devonshire Regiment, who has died of wounds was a son of the late Sir Henry Burford-Hancock, C.M.G., by his second wife, who is a daughter of the late Rev. John Nankivell.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT GUY WILLIE HUGHES, of the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment died of wounds on December 30th in Hospital at the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force. He had been severely wounded on the same day, and from the first there was no hope of his recovery. He only lived a few hours after his admission. The youngest son of Mr. George Hughes, of Fieldhead, Wimbledon, with whom the deepest sympathy will be felt, Guy Hughes, who had been in the Officers' Training Corps at Charterhouse, after leaving which school he had been studying at the South Eastern Agricultural College at Wye, joined the army with his elder brother, Alan, (who returned from France wounded some weeks ago) at the outbreak of war. Of Guy Hughes, Captain Sheffield, who commanded his company wrote "We joined the 4th Battalion together at Pauquissant, and he was, with Hilton (who was killed four days before Christmas), my Subaltern. He was always so cheerful and did his work so willingly and pluckily that I can hardly bear to think that when I rejoin the Battalion I shall not see him. He was greatly loved by the men of his platoon, and the whole company, know will mourn his loss. He must have been hit during the same tour of duty in the trenches as I was, only I was hit before I got to them, and am now laid up at the above address." Guy Hughes was a staunch Churchman. He attended Holy Communion in an embrace on Christmas Day, within the sound of guns firing and of Christmas hymns, and in a letter which we were privileged to read, written shortly before his death, told how he had buried a Frenchman, inscribing on a cross over the grave, "To an unknown Frenchman," and Horace's comforting words "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori." Guy Hughes has done his duty as all who knew him felt sure he would do.

SUB-LIEUTENANT PHILIP J. L. SKINNER, who lost his life when H.M.S. *Formidable* was sunk, was a nephew of the Hon. A. C. Ponsouby, being the son of Lady Kathleen Skinner, daughter of the 7th Earl of Bessborough.

### Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT G. S. NESS, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, who has been killed in action was Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of the Windward Islands.

CAPTAIN KENNEDY, Staff Officer in Trinidad, has been killed at the front.

### CORRECTIONS.

Clare, Midshipman (son of Dr. the Hon. H. L. Clare), retired from the Royal Navy three years ago.

Garland, 2nd Lieut. Vincent, (member of the staff of Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, Ltd., nephew of Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, Postmaster of Jamaica, and grandson of the late Mr. S. S. Burke, M.L.C., Jamaica), Army Service Corps.

Bindley, Lieut. Herbert Duncombe, (son of Archdeacon Bindley, D.D., late of Barbados), Gazetted on December 30th to the Royal Engineers.

[Copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, of December 1st, 15th, and 20th, in which the first, second and third lists containing 315, 63 and 99 names respectively were published, are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane. Price 1s. per copy, post free.]

## WEST INDIAN FRUIT AND THE WOUNDED.

The R.M.S. *Magdalena* brought home 111 crates of fruit for our sick and wounded troops from the Orange and Lime Committee of Trinidad, on which Mr. Randolph Rust and Mr. L. M. Hobson are the moving spirits, and 27 crates or barrels collected by the Dominica Agricultural and Commercial Society, whose members were the first to send a gift of fruit for the wounded. The Dominica consignment was contributed by Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, Mr. T. D. Fillau, Mr. T. H. Shillingford, Mrs. R. L. Bellot, Mr. John Eaden, the Londonderry C. P. Co., Cane-field Estate, and Dr. H. Alford Nicholls' St. Arment Estate.

Since the West India Committee, at the request of the Army Council, undertook the distribution of the fruit, which is now being despatched fortnightly from Jamaica, Trinidad, and Dominica, for this charitable purpose, 2,249 cases have been dealt with. Of these 1,196 were collected and despatched by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and the remainder by the Orange and Lime Committee of Trinidad and the Dominica Agricultural and Commercial Society. The largest shipment has been by the *Aracataca* from Jamaica which brought 952 boxes and barrels all admirably packed. Other shipments have included 290 packages by the *Tagus*, 272 by the *Danube*, 251 by the *Trent*, and 181 by the *Ortava* from Trinidad and Dominica; 244 by the *Chagres* from Jamaica; and 138 packages by the *Magdalena*, 21 by the *Tagus*, and 13 by the *Oruba* from Dominica, whose planters were the first to offer fruit. The fruit is carried freight free by Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, and it is hoped by the local Committee that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company will also carry the Trinidad fruit without charge as it is doing in the case of the Dominica fruit. The work of Dr. Lawrence Jones, who kindly volunteered to organise the Department of the Committee which is dealing with the fruit, has been greatly facilitated by Messrs. Elders and Fyffes having lent the services of one of their expert fruit packers.

To handle 2,249 packages of fruit and to arrange for their despatch among nearly four hundred hospitals is no light task; but Dr. Jones has carried it out so well that there has been no confusion, and only a few, if any, cases have gone astray. The Port of London Authority, at the request of the Committee, have waived the dock dues, and have done all in their power to facilitate the arrangements, but the congestion at the docks has resulted in some delay in clearing inward cargoes. At Bristol, whose Port Authority have also renounced their fees, work has proceeded more briskly, and no complaints have been received of damaged fruit.

The distribution has not been confined to England, the Red Cross Society having kindly consented to receive and forward to the Continent fruit for the hospitals in France and Flanders. And in some cases requests for consignments from hospitals re-

ceiving Belgian and French wounded were favourably considered. Our Indian troops have not been forgotten, and it may well be imagined what delight it gave them to receive such a welcome gift from the tropics. In due course the letters of thanks which have been received will be forwarded to the generous donors in the West Indies. Meanwhile it will be of interest to publish a few typical examples which will convey some idea of the great satisfaction and pleasure which the fruit has given to our wounded soldiers. The acknowledgments include a letter from H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. H.H. Princess Marie Louise also wrote saying that the fruit arrived in good condition and was very much appreciated by the soldiers at their Xmas Dinner. The Duchess of Bedford wrote: "Will you kindly convey to the Jamaica Agricultural Society my appreciation of their gift of fruit for the soldiers in my two hospitals. The men are extremely fond of fruit and will, I am sure, be most grateful." The Hospitals Gift Committee, Aberdeen, sending their warmest thanks to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, "for their most generous and beautiful gift of fruit," said that "13 cases came yesterday in good time for the Xmas dinner. The First Scottish General Hospital fills four hospitals in Aberdeen and each one had plenty of fruit, thanks to this kind gift. The tables looked quite beautiful among the plum puddings and especial sweets." The managers of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, expressed their "gratitude to our West Indian friends in Jamaica." The Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, said that the fruit was much appreciated "by our wounded soldiers, who have remarkably good appetites after the first few days. The Matron of Lady Mountgarrett's Hospital for Officers wrote that the fruit arrived in excellent condition, and that she had been asked by all of the patients in the hospital to convey their very best thanks to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, adding: "the fruit will be such a boon, as it is so difficult at this season to give the patients much change in that respect."

How little grape-fruit is even yet understood in this country is shown by several of the letters. Lady Georgina Vernon, of the Worcester Voluntary Aids Detachment, for example, wrote that the soldiers in her hospital considered grape-fruit "a special treat, as they had not had any before." Those in charge of the Infirmary at Stockport and the County Hospital at York, had apparently never heard of this fruit at all, for both acknowledged it as "grape-nuts"! Another spoke of it as "bread-fruit," while one genial secretary thanked the Jamaica Agricultural Society for their kind gift of an Xmas Tree!

Some Belgian soldiers, who were given some of the Trinidad fruit, expressed themselves as much touched by this kind gift from some of the planters in Trinidad, adding that they wished they could thank them personally. The Devonshire Voluntary Aid Association wrote "that the fruit would be deeply appreciated by the soldiers, not only for the sake of the fruit itself, but as a token of interest and

sympathy from the planters in Trinidad. Mr. P. Michelli, C.M.G., acknowledging lines from the Dominica planters wrote, "Many a man will be able to have a cooling draught which otherwise he would not have had, or would have had to put up with water. I think that probably we have had a train-load of some of the most grievously injured of any of those who have been sent to London, but it is wonderful how the men have revived under careful treatment. When they first came in they were many of them debilitated to a great extent, but with careful nursing and better surroundings I hope we may restore them so far that they will all eventually leave the hospital, though many of them must remain for a long time, and there are unhappily those who can never hope to be of any use in this world. With grateful thanks." But to give extracts from all the grateful letters of acknowledgment would fill several numbers of the CIRCULAR, and it must suffice to say that a perusal of them leaves no doubt as to the great delight which the fruit has given. In due course the letters will be forwarded to Jamaica, Trinidad and Dominica.

### SEA ISLAND COTTON.

The interest which the fine spinners of Lancashire take in the West Indian Sea Island Cotton industry was demonstrated in 1912 by the visit of Mr. J. W. McConnel, of the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association, to the cotton-growing islands. As further evidence of the importance which they attach to this comparatively new British industry, there is the mission of Mr. J. L. Fonda, who has been touring the West Indies on behalf of the Association, to be recorded. This gentleman recently visited Nevis, among other cotton-growing islands, and though the courtesy of Mr. E. Williams, Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee in that island it is possible to give an account of the proceedings of a meeting held during his stay, which will no doubt be appreciated by readers interested in the cotton industry.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Agricultural Society, and Dr. Mussen, presiding, said that he gathered that the object of Mr. Fonda's visit was to bring the Fine Spinners and Doublers Association into closer touch with the planters. Mr. Fonda, who had had considerable experience in English cotton mills, had lived for many years in Florida where he had purchased cotton for the Association, and he was now endeavouring to collect as much information as he could with regard to the prospects of Sea Island cotton growing, and hoped also to elaborate some scheme of co-operation between the Association and the planters.

Mr. Fonda said that the Fine Spinners and Doublers Association dealt only with the finest cotton and they desired to make arrangements for the mutual benefit of themselves and the planters, and

in this connection he would be glad to receive any suggestion which might be made. Dealing with the quality of cotton needed, he said that cleanliness was essential in order to maintain the highest quality, and therefore to keep up the value very careful seed selection was important. In this connection he was sorry to see much wild cotton round the island, for it was a source of great danger, and he recommended that the Agricultural Society or a grower of standing should supply the seed and that only the finest should be used. The peasant growers should be watched carefully, and steps should be taken to prevent them from planting inferior seed. He congratulated Messrs. Evelyn, Emsorp and Malone on the quality of their cotton, and said that if the planters continued to give the best quality the prospects before them were good. The planters should decide on a minimum price below which it would not be profitable to continue to grow the best variety of cotton. He would remind them that in the United States cotton which had sold at 7d. was now quoted at 3d., and that the fall there had been greater than in the West Indies. His advice to planters would be to carry on quietly until after the war, and if they adopted his advice cotton would continue to pay.

Mr. Shepherd asked when it would be best to ship, whether now or after the war, and further if there could be over production of Sea Island cotton. Mr. Fonda, in reply, said that he was of opinion that the finest Sea Island cotton could not be over-produced, though inferior cotton could be. With regard to the ginning, Mr. Fonda said that the cotton should not be mauled about or twisted in order to remove the sand. It should never be ginned damp and the rollers should be re-grooved periodically if necessary. With regard to the immediate future, he advocated the planting of slightly reduced areas, but insisted that the standard for next crop must be maintained. England now relied on the British West Indies for fine cotton instead of America, and Egyptian cotton was a poorer variety altogether. With regard to cultivation, he expressed the opinion that the use of fertilisers was essential, notably phosphate of ammonia for the stalk, and potash to prevent the bolls dropping.

The Sultan of Turkey's declaration of a Holy War has been disavowed by Moslems in many parts of the British Empire including Trinidad and Tobago. The Moslem inhabitants of those islands have forwarded through the Governor resolutions in which they state that none of their co-religionists are in sympathy with the Sultan and assure the Government that they are loyal and faithful subjects of the British Crown, and that they are always ready to shed their blood for the honour and prestige of the British Flag, under which they are enjoying free liberty, peace, and contentment. The resolutions are signed on behalf of the Moslem population by Abdul Aziz, a well-known and influential Moslem landowner residing at Princes Town.

## THE RESOURCES OF GUIANA.

### A report on the Mines and Forests.

The Report of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana for the year ending June 30th, 1914, states that as regards

#### The Gold Industry.

the outstanding feature for the last twelve months has been the increase in the output from the Caburi District, which in a measure helped to make up for the falling off in the output from the Pigeon Island locality. One particular location has yielded over 1,300 oz. Gold in paying quantities has been reported in the upper reaches of the Rupununi River bordering on the Brazilian frontier. The situation, the Report goes on to say, precludes any hope of the field being successfully worked from Georgetown owing to the long boat journey, the impossibility of obtaining labour on the spot, and the long portage of provisions necessary. Dredging continued to meet with success, 9,987 oz. having been obtained in this way. Quartz mining was being prosecuted methodically in the Potaro District. The total output of gold for the year had been 77,435 oz. The output of

#### Diamonds

has largely increased owing to the activity mentioned in the last report, the principal quantity being from the Mazaruni River, all from shallow or surface working, no deep mining having been yet attempted. The discovery made at Potaro, mentioned in the previous Report, has not materialised, but it is known that good stones are being found with considerable frequency during the operation of washing for gold.

The output of diamonds for the year amounted to 94,871 stones, weighing in all 12,506 carats. In the way of new industries, the mining of

#### Bauxite and Lignite.

is, in every probability, coming to the front. The very large and widely distributed deposits of bauxite attracted the attention of capitalists outside the Colony, and a good deal of activity has been in evidence, in securing options on, and even outright purchases of properties situated in localities from which shipment is easy and inexpensive. A lignite deposit on the Demerara River is at present being explored. Although the calorific value was not very high, the owner is vigorously opening up his find with the hope of finding Manjack, a small quantity, it is stated, having been obtained.

#### Rubber and Balata.

The former showed no signs of extension. There has been no increase in the area of rubber under cultivation. 1,154 lbs. were exported during the year. The amount of Balata shipped for the year was 1,414,193 lbs. as against 927,419 lbs. for the previous year. It is interesting to note that of this

quantity 116,763 lbs. went to the United States and 1,297,430 lbs. to the United Kingdom.

### Timber.

No fewer than 466,375 superficial feet of timber were shipped, and as contracts for considerable quantities have been made for the following year, a considerable extension of the industry is anticipated.

The Report concludes with the expression of opinion of the Council that a Hinterland Railway is desirable, but would require a colonisation scheme to be inaugurated in association with it.

## THE DOMINICA COASTAL SERVICE.

The Administrator of Dominica has invited tenders for a coastal service to replace the one conducted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's SS. *Yare*. A much more modest service is now contemplated, the requirements being (1) A motor boat service between Roseau and Portsmouth, and (2) A freight service by schooner on the Northern, Eastern and Southern Coast. The motor launch is to be a passenger vessel with accommodation for 25 first class and 25 second class passengers, with their baggage, and a limited amount of cargo. She is to be propelled by internal combustion motor power, and to have a speed of at least nine miles an hour. It is thought that a displacement of between 25 and 30 tons will be necessary.

The provisional time-table is as follows:—

*In the week following the departure of the R.M. Intercolonial Steamer for England via the Southern Islands:—*

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY—Leave Roseau for Portsmouth in the morning, and return from Portsmouth to Roseau in the evening.

*In the following week—The same trips as above, with these additions:—*

THURSDAY—Leave Roseau, 9.30 p.m., with the mails brought by the R.M. Intercolonial Steamer;

FRIDAY—Return to Roseau from Portsmouth in the morning.

With regard to the schooner service which is required for the transport of cargo between the several recognised shipping places along the Northern, Eastern and Southern Coasts and Roseau, the schooner is to be of not less than 70 tons burthen, and she is to have an auxiliary motor to enable her to proceed at a moderate speed in calm weather, and to assist her to make and leave port when necessary. Her itinerary and time-table will be settled by the Government in consultation with the contractor.

In both services the tariff of fares and freight rates are to be fixed subject to the approval of the local Government. Tenders, which will be received up to mid-day on January 30th, should, runs the notice in the Official Gazette, of December 7th, state (1) the amount of annual subsidy demanded for the service tendered for, (2) the guarantees which the tenderer is prepared to give for the due performance of the contract, (3) the term of years for which it is desired to tender, and (4) the date on which the service tendered for will be started.

With regard to the above proposals a correspondent writes from Dominica:—

"When this island was made a Crown Colony I was the only British colonist on this, the eastern, or windward, side of the island, and we were promised that the Government would give us a steamer service, and make roads, and that then colonists and money would be attracted. We got finally the R.M.S. *Yare* as steamer service, and there are about a dozen colonists, all of whom have planted limes, etc., in large quantities. The Royal Mail has given notice that the *Yare* is to leave, in spite of the fact that the original subsidy was £900, and is now £2,000, which they say is inadequate, and they will not even put on a better boat for the larger subsidy. In the meantime, the roads, with the exception of a few bridges, are far worse than they were then, in spite of the fact that the surplus of Dominica is over £30,000, and the Government evidently proposes this very inferior and inadequate service, although they admit that a very large part of the revenue is derived from this part of the island. Should you inquire from the Government you will be told that we are to have good roads given us, as I have been told for the past ten years. I maintain that we are entitled to good roads in any case, but that the distances are so great that roads cannot and will not take the place of a steamer service, and that we are entitled now to an even better steamer service, and that a schooner service is merely shelving the question, that is, even if it can be got."

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Through the courtesy of Mr. A. S. Creighton, the local Manager, we are able to reproduce in the present issue a photograph of the new building of the Royal Bank of Canada in Port of Spain. It stands in that spacious boulevard known as Marine Square, and is in every respect worthy of the great Canadian institution, which has now no fewer than fourteen branches in the British West Indies, besides several agencies.

Above this is a picture of a living map of Europe presented by some handsome ladies and gentlemen at a grand Patriotic Concert which was recently held in aid of the Belgium Relief Fund at the Prince's Building in Port of Spain, Trinidad. It will be noted by many readers that the tableau has apparently been based on a scene in the popular ballet "Dame Europa's School," now being given at the Empire Theatre in Leicester Square. This illustration is from a photograph by Mr. H. Savignac, for which we are indebted to Professor Carmody.

Mr. J. R. NICHOLS, Inspector of Schools, and Mr. N. Greenhalgh, Assistant Inspector, in their report on the Elementary Schools in Barbados, deplore the serious neglect in the teaching of geography and history. For the former the West India Committee Map of the West Indies should prove useful, and it may be noted that the Inspectors are making an effort to supply each boys' and girls' school in the island with maps of Barbados, the West Indies, and the World. But the chief need hitherto has been for proper school buildings, and improvements are now being effected by the annual grant which is being provided by the Legislature for the purpose.

### LOOKING BACK.

*Under this heading extracts from the old records and minute books of the West India Committee are published. The earliest minute book is dated 1769; but there is evidence that the Committee was in existence before that year. In the earlier days there were two Committees, those of the West India Planters and the West India Merchants, which met jointly as the "Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants," a name which survived until 1904, when the West India Committee was incorporated by Royal Charter granted by King Edward VII.*

#### V.—Captain Saumarez' Suggestions as to Convoys.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants held at the New City Chambers, the 18th of April, 1821,

Present,

George Hibbert, Esqre.,  
John Lavicourt Anderson, Esqre.,  
Oswald Smith, Esqre.,  
George Cottam, Esqre.,  
The Honble. William Fraser,  
John Wood Nelson, Esqre.,  
William King, Esqre.,  
Nathaniel Winter, Esqre.,  
Charles McGarel, Esqre.,  
William Shedden, Esqre.,  
William Mitchell, Esqre.,  
Thomson Hankey, Esqre.,  
Charles Armstrong, Esqre.,  
Charles Cave, Esqre.,  
Joseph Maryat, Esqre., M.P.,  
John Plummer, Esqre., M.P.,  
John Anthony Rucker, Esqre.,  
John Higgin, Esqre.

Read two letters from Captain Saumarez addressed to William Holden Esqre., Secretary to the West India Merchants of which the following are copies.

Albemarle Street,  
16th April, 1821.

Sir,

The circumstance of West India Convoys having experienced such long protracted voyages that vessels with provisions have even been sent from the western Ports to prevent the crews from starvation is a subject to which I have paid considerable attention, and the such circumstances have more frequently occurred about the period of my first entering the Navy. I have up to the present date sought to elucidate the cause by forming a conclusion from the facts I could collect, or the instances which casually fell under my own observation, and with respectful deference I beg leave to assure those Gentlemen and Merchants who are concerned in the West India Trade of my full conviction that a periodical south and westerly wind exists from January (if not from November) to May, between Bermuda

and the Western Islands, and were Ships at that Season of the Year to keep about a degree to the Southward of Bermuda,—make the Madeiras or the Island of Corvo to the South East, and then following Captain Horsbourg's directions to the East India Ships after making the Western Islands, a quick passage would be inevitable, whereas by following the long existing custom of drifting up the Gulph stream at that season of the year ships are so far to the northward as to be beyond the westerly Wind, which prevails between the Gulph Stream and the Island of Corvo, and frequently for weeks experience the light breezes which at that Season occur where the Gulph Stream moves with its greatest velocity. This Phenomenon I am led to believe commences immediately after the Hurricane Months, and frequently our convoys in the Stream have been becalmed, while vessels in the same longitude but in a more southern Latitude, have experienced strong westerly winds—this is particularly exemplified in our homeward bound mediterranean convoys.

The information I received from Captain Hurd of the Royal Navy and Captain Horsbourg of the East India Service, who are ever ready to promote any measure tending to the improvement of Navigation. The opinions of Officers of high respectability and my own experience have confirmed me in the conclusion that the West India Shipping might curtail their voyage by one fourth and on the same ratio as the East India Shipping have done now that the different Trade Winds between China and England have been more clearly delineated.

I am aware of the opposition that the Captains who for years have followed a different course will make to any innovation on their usual track and custom, of drifting up the Gulph Stream, yet should the Gentlemen concerned in the West India Trade be pleased to give me their support, I feel confident the result will be highly beneficial to their interests, while I require no other remuneration than the satisfaction of proving that while the exertions of Naval Officers are no longer required for the protection of commerce we are still feelingly alive to its dearest interests.

I have only further to add I am ready to enter more fully upon this subject and assist in removing any doubts upon it should my humble suggestions be considered worthy the attention of the West India Committee.

I have the honour to be, etc.,  
(Signed) R. SAUMAREZ,  
late Commander of H.M. Sloop *Beaver*,  
in the West Indies.

To William Holden, Esqre.,  
Secretary to the West India Merchants.

4, Albemarle Street,  
17th April, 1821.

Sir,

When laying the accompanying Letter before the Committee, I beg you will express my request that

it may not appear in print. I however have no objection to its being generally read and shall be happy to give any further information in my power if called upon for it.

I am, Sir, &c., &c., &c.,

To William Holden, Esq.

(Signed) R. SAUMAREZ.

Unanimously resolved,

That the Chairman be requested to communicate to Captain Saumarez the thanks of this Committee for the interesting information contained in his letter of 16th April, which the Committee will endeavour to turn to the use for which it is designed without, however, printing the letter, and will take the liberty of referring to Captain Saumarez for further explanation should it be found requisite.

### THE R.M.S.P. "TRENT."

#### A delay in her sailing probable.

It will be recalled that the R.M.S.P. *Trent* was delayed on her last homeward voyage owing to "engine trouble." The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. in a letter dated December 31st, 1914, advised consignees that during the gale on the night of Monday, December 28th the steamer *Trent*, which was lying in Victoria Dock, with cargo from West Indies, etc., on board, met with an accident which it is feared, has caused considerable damage to her cargo. They add "It may be necessary to deliver your goods on the quay at Victoria Dock, and we beg you to note that any charges incurred by the goods will be for your account. You will please also take note that we cannot accept any responsibility under the circumstances of this casualty."

At the time of going to press it seems improbable that the vessel will be able to leave for the West Indies on the scheduled date, that is to say, to-morrow.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The Hon. R. Gervase Bushe, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago has just ordered twenty copies of the West India Committee Map of the West Indies, which continues to meet with a steady demand in spite of the war. Most of the West Indian Governments have taken copies and the map is being largely used by the educational authorities throughout the colonies. A further order has also been received from the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada. The map—the size of which is 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 10 inches—can be seen both mounted and in sheet at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The reduced price to members of the West India Committee is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free

5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

### COLONIAL REPORTS.

#### The Trade of Jamaica.

The year 1913-14 was, says Brigadier General Sir William Manning, in his report on the Blue-book, one of stress for the Colony, due to the after effects of the hurricane of November, 1912, and to droughts which occurred in certain portions of the island, and rendered relief works necessary. As the year drew to its close, however, this condition was gradually becoming ameliorated and a hopeful tone prevailed. The indications were that, if no untoward event occurred, trade would regain most, if not all, the lost ground.

The total revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years have been as follows:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £	Imports.	Exports.
1909-10	992,976	1,033,704	2,561,674	2,628,307
1910-11	990,399	987,304	2,611,943	2,568,222
1911-12	1,161,014	1,155,208	2,865,553	2,948,067
1912-13	1,206,161	1,304,930	3,050,478	2,709,283
1913-14	1,048,639	1,065,435	2,837,446	2,430,207

The imports were drawn mainly from the United States which supplied 46.7 per cent. of the total (as compared with 25.9 in 1873). The United Kingdom was responsible for 38.3 per cent. (as compared with 57.5 per cent. in 1873), Canada for 8.7 per cent. (against 12.7 per cent. in 1873), "Other countries" 6.3 per cent. (against 3.9 per cent.). Commenting on these figures, the Collector-General remarks that, in the span covered, the Colony's import trade has increased by over a million, but the latter half of the period has witnessed the rapid declension of trade with Britain and a commensurate advance in the trade relations with the United States, and while "Other Countries" make a bid, Canada stands stationary. "These," he adds, "are features that one would wish otherwise."

The trend of the Colony's export trade is the same—the United States now receiving 57.4 per cent. of the exports as compared with 8.4 in 1873, the United Kingdom 17.5 per cent., as against 81.5 per cent; Canada 3.7 per cent, as against .3 per cent; and "other countries" 21.4 per cent. as against 9.8 per cent. But since 1903 the exports to the United States have fallen from 68 per cent. to 57.4 per cent.

An interesting feature of the year from the agricultural standpoint was the appearance of sisal hemp for the first time in a material way in the export statistics of the Colony. This was due to the enterprise of a planter in the district of Vere, who has been markedly successful in the cultivation of true sisal (*Agave sisalana*) on a soil of limestone formation. This plant had failed when cultivated on alluvial soils some twenty years ago owing to its habit of polling prematurely. It has now been demon-



strated that it can be grown with success and profit on a limestone soil in the dry and hot district of Vere and a good deal of planting is now taking place.

A special feature of the medical returns is the decrease of 2,347 in the number of cases of malaria treated in the hospitals, and of 25 in the mortality from that disease as compared with the previous year. The decrease exceeds 27 per cent. in the cases treated and 31 per cent. in the death rate. The Registrar General's returns show a decrease of 168 in the total number of deaths in the island attributed to malaria, equal to 31.21 per cent.

### Philately helps the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Commissioner A. C. Robertson in his report for 1912-13 states that the chief sources of revenue of the Cayman Islands dependency of Jamaica are the import duties and the sale of postage stamps. Towards a revenue of £3,397 in 1912-13 the Post Office contributed £1,137 from the sale of stamps, the new 1913 issue of various denominations, from a farthing upwards having met with a ready sale. The general prosperity of Grand Cayman depends to a very large extent on the price obtained from the sale of turtle. Contracts have been entered into, which, taking effect from January 1st, 1914, will be in force throughout the year, at prices remunerative to the contractors. There is therefore every reason to anticipate a promising year, in so far as the import duties are concerned, while in the year that has passed, namely, 1913, there has been no scarcity of buyers of turtle. In the Lesser Islands coco-nuts form the staple industry, and if bud-rot and other diseases peculiar to that article of commerce, which during the last year have made their appearance, can be effectually controlled and kept within bounds, there seems no reason to doubt the continued prosperity of that portion of the Dependency.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1908-9	3,600	3,735	22,091	11,995
1909-10	2,824	3,282	23,853	11,371
1910-11	2,779	2,716	26,232	10,992
1911-12	3,795	2,700	28,444	12,323
1912-13	3,397	3,105	25,000	10,000

The mosquito season starts in April and continues until September, when they begin to abate, and from November to February almost disappear. Householders adopt the method of lighting a smoke fire to ward off the attacks of these insects, which swarm in myriads and render life a torture to man and beast. A few houses are mosquito screened. There are fortunately very few of the anopheline or malaria-transmitting variety. During the course of the last year there have only been two cases of malaria in persons who have never lived outside Grand Cayman, and these both resident in the same district, Red Bay. Although these islands are prac-

tically immune from such recognised mosquito-borne diseases, as malaria, yellow fever, and filariasis, the mosquito is nevertheless seriously detrimental to health in other respects, the conditions of anaemia and general debility met with being attributed by the Government Medical Officer to the blood-sucking powers of these insects. Swamps are found in various places, but as these are below the level of the sea they could only be drained at a large expenditure of money.

### Trinidad's Varied Resources.

The Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, in his report on the Blue-book of the colony for 1913-14, states that the record for the year is, on the whole, a favourable one. The revenue and recurrent expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years have been as follows:—

	Revenue £	Expenditure £	Imports* £	Exports* £
1909-10	853,565	798,262	3,288,820	3,218,092
1910-11	948,385	843,050	3,343,911	3,497,588
1911-12	950,744	901,018	3,016,848	4,769,486
1912-13	932,513	893,499	4,682,325	4,472,577
1913-14	970,789	888,888	4,968,360	5,205,377

\* Calendar years 1909-13.

In the above figures of imports and exports the value of transit goods which amounted to £2,139,810 in 1913 is included.

The quantities and values of the articles of local produce exported in 1913 are appended:—

Articles.	Quantity.	Value. £
Asphalt—Crude	186,995 tons	191,724
Asphalt—Refined	19,421 tons	38,841
Bitters	32,234 galls.	32,234
Coena	48,116,577 lbs.	1,403,597
Coco-nuts	16,390,897	85,369
Copra	1,154,539 lbs.	11,545
Fruit		11,791
Molasses	339,946 galls.	4,243
Rum	102,323 galls.	10,657
Sugar	32,655 tons	418,067
Petroleum—Crude	13,570,152 tons	75,020

The oil industry made considerable progress during the year and three companies of high standing have now commenced drilling operations on Crown lands. 41 wells were drilled aggregating a depth of 41,933 feet, of which 15,387 feet were in respect of wells on Crown lands. Of the 41 wells 18 proved productive, and the output of oil was increased from 17,626,563 gallons in 1912-13 to 22,523,060 gallons in 1913-14. At the close of the year eleven Oil Companies were actively engaged in the winning of oil, and 147 wells had been drilled, 63 of which were on Crown lands. Of the quantity exported in 1913, 772,982 gallons were supplied to ships for bunkering, including 640 tons to H.M.S. *New Zealand*.

With regard to agriculture it is estimated that at the present time 459,675 acres are under cultivation in the following crops:—

	Acres.
Cacao	330,154
Sugar	50,742
Coco-nuts	27,536
Ground Provisions	23,531
Rice	13,369
Coffee	1,120
Rubber	2,700
Limes and Oranges	1,123
Other Produce	400

The extensions to Siparia and to Rio Claro are now open for traffic. The former was opened in November, 1913, but the completion of the Rio Claro line was delayed by the difficult nature of the ground over which it runs and it was only fully opened in September last. The plans and estimates for the new station in Port of Spain have now been finally settled and approved and the work of its erection is proceeding. The estimated cost is £30,000.

The large expenditure in Tobago on road extension and other improvements since its incorporation as a Ward of the Colony is beginning to show results, and the agricultural industries of that island appear now to be firmly established. The value of its exports has increased from £35,201 in 1909 to £60,269 in 1913, the principal articles of export being cacao, coco-nuts and copra. The two new steamers that have been built for the Trinidad Coastal Service by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company afford an easy means of communication between the two islands, and the wireless station in Scarborough places the one island in close touch with the other. There is still a fair quantity of Crown land available for sale in Tobago.

### Sugar and Bananas in Fiji.

The principal exports from Fiji are sugar, and copra. The quantities and value during each of the last five years were as follows:—

	Sugar.		Copra.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
1909	60,825	607,069	15,880	226,599
1910	61,761	669,432	13,078	258,841
1911	92,834	797,274	19,337	294,245
1912	61,728	671,713	13,710	242,073
1913	94,710	1,041,927	7,929	176,741

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported were as follows:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1909	585,713	188,577
1910	271,024	81,225
1911	897,345	219,551
1912	589,743	209,772
1913	922,745	277,468

The export of sugar increased from 61,728 tons, valued at £671,713 in 1912, to 94,710, valued at £1,041,927, in 1913. The greater export of sugar was due to some extent to the favourable season, but principally to a large increase in the area under cultivation, while the falling off of copra was due to the effects of hurricanes. The total area of land under sugar cane on the 31st December, 1913, was estimated at 48,208 acres, from which were produced 736,992 tons of cane as against 43,358 acres under

cane on the last day of 1912, from which were produced 480,658 tons of cane. The area under bananas has been extended considerably since the Victorian market was opened up by direct communication, and now amounts to 6,608 acres. These figures are exclusive of native plantations, as to which details are not available. It is from native plantations that a large part of the green fruit is produced, which is sold to European buyers, who export the produce. Prior to the year 1911 the cultivation of bananas for export was confined principally to the Rewa Valley and the Sigatoka district, from which places transport to the shipping ports of Suva and Momi is not difficult. During recent years the areas under bananas have spread to other parts of the colony—a movement much to be desired—so that the export will not be interfered with so seriously in case of gales being experienced, which are frequently very local in their character. Unfortunately, disease has overtaken the bananas at Sigatoka, which has diminished the export from that district, while a scale (*Aspidiotus*) has attacked the bananas there and at other places. Steps have been taken to enforce spraying and fumigation, and it is to be hoped that all interested will recognise the necessity for taking the necessary steps to combat this and other diseases, so that the prosperity of one of the most valuable industries of the colony may not be endangered. It was hoped that it might have been possible to make satisfactory arrangements for the carriage of bananas to Canada and so establish a new market, but it has not yet been possible to do so.

### CONSULAR REPORT.

#### Formosa's Sugar Industry.

Two or three years ago, when plans were being made in Japan for an increase in the tariff and for the gradual checking of imports, it was confidently predicted that sugar would soon vanish from its place in the list of imports, and yet in 1913 it came third with the huge total of £3,751,000, and was only beaten by raw cotton and rice. What has happened, says Mr. E. F. Crowe, Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, is that Formosa has proved a disappointment. It was fully expected that, with the assistance of the subsidies to put the industry on a proper basis, Formosa would be able to supply all Japan's requirements, but Nature has not smiled on the enterprise, and typhoons have played havoc with the crops. The type of sugar-cane which was introduced, as it was thought to be richer in sugar, has unfortunately not proved so capable of withstanding bad weather as the older native cane, to which it may prove necessary to revert. The imports from Formosa into Japan during the last three years were as follows:—

	Tons.	£
1911	235,607	3,764,000
1912	147,122	2,872,000
1913	61,143	1,680,000

This table proves very conclusively how much the Formosan crop suffered. It must be remembered that in 1911-12 exports of sugar were made to foreign countries, chiefly China and Canada, to the value of £96,000 and £172,000 respectively, while in 1913 not a single pound was exported except to Japan. Meanwhile, however, the Japanese refineries were continuing their campaign in China and Corea against the Hong-Kong refineries, and the exports to these countries were as follows:—

To	1912.		1913.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
China	49,136	783,000	98,200	1,580,000
Corea	9,580	130,000	12,600	174,000

It was, therefore, absolutely necessary that large purchases should be made from Java, so that the refineries should have enough sugar to carry on with, and the imports from that island amounted to 280,000 tons, compared with 115,000 tons in 1912 and 75,000 tons in 1911. Of the balance of 40,000 tons about 37,000 tons came from the Philippines.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. H. T. HENDERSON.

Mr. Harry Thomas Henderson died at his residence, Hapland, Helensburgh, on January 1st.

Mr. Henderson, who was well-known in shipping circles as a partner in the Glasgow firm of Messrs. Prentice, Service and Henderson, was a son of the late Mr. A. C. Henderson of the Anchor Line, and a grandson of Mr. Thomas Henderson, one of four brothers from Pittenweem, who made their mark in Glasgow shipping and ship-building circles. When his father retired from the Anchor Line, Mr. Harry Henderson became a partner with Mr. T. Prentice, and Mr. G. W. Service, forming the firm of Prentice, Service and Henderson, the managers of the Crown Steamship Co., Ltd., running the well-known Direct Line of steamers to and from the West Indies and North Pacific. Mr. Henderson was a man of most genial disposition, having a wide circle of friends, and was greatly respected in the shipping trade.

### MR. HENRY HALES.

We regret to state that Mr. Henry Hales died at his residence, Elmwood, Kenley, on December 24th last.

Mr. Henry Hales, who was formerly a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, was for many years a familiar figure in Mincing Lane. Partner in the firm of Messrs. J. V. Drake and Company, merchants, he was thus interested in sugar estates in St. Lucia. He enjoyed well deserved popularity among all with whom he came into contact, and on the occasion of his retirement in 1904, he was the recipient of a piece of bronze statuary as a testimonial in recognition of his services to the sugar trade, and as a token of the high esteem in which he was held.

NORWAY is, it is stated, contemplating the establishment of a State monopoly in sugar, and proposes to purchase 20,000 tons of sugar as a reserve supply.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

THERE is no more valuable food, says the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, than the bread-nut. It forms a stand-by when it grows naturally where grass is scarce, and is at all times a fine food for horses, and can be used instead of corn.

In his half yearly report to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, Mr. John Barclay states that a cheap and palatable orange sherry, without any added alcohol, can be made out of the pulp of oranges which have been "rinded" for the purpose of making oil. It was not considered that the scheme of bottling unfermented orange juice for exportation was a practicable one.

SOME manure experiments recently carried out at Tucuman in the Argentine, showed that while the average yield from the unmanured fields was 18½ tons of cane to the acre, that from the fields manured with sulphate of potash, basic slag, superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia was only 22 tons 4 cwt. The percentage of sugar in the canes varied from 12 per cent. to 15.5 per cent. The tendency of the manuring was to increase the proportion of sugar in the cane, but in no case was the difference large.

In the recent *Bulletin* of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies on the subject of cotton, stress is laid on the maintenance of the supply of humus in the soil. For this purpose leguminous green dressings are most valuable, and the cotton trees themselves may be buried at the end of the season. When additional manure is required, it is best supplied in the form of pen manure or cotton seed meal, which are stated to be more lasting in their effects than chemical fertilizers. Tankage and guano are also mentioned as suitable cotton manures.

THE *Agricultural Journal of India*, in an interesting article by Mr. R. C. Wood, M.A., on the use of fish as cattle food, refers to the experiments of Sir John Lawes at Rothamsted on the feeding of pigs with fish, among which was dried Newfoundland codfish. The pigs were reported upon as being "very fat and well ripened," and there was a good proportion of increase of weight to amount of food consumed. In an experiment at the Coimbatore Farm, which Mr. Wood quotes, the fish were dried and ground and mixed with soaked bran and husk. The conclusions drawn from the results of this experiment were that no ill effects follow from the addition of fish to a mixed diet for cattle, and that after a time the cattle take favourably to it. Its fattening capacity, however, does not compare well with that of ground-nuts.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. HARRY S. FULLER leaves for Trinidad in the R.M.S.P. *Trent* to take over the management of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

MISS HAYES left England in the *Osterley* on December 18th, for Australia, to visit her brother in Brisbane. She expects to be away a year.

At the Mansion House on December 31st, Gerrit Lambertus Benkers was fined £100 and £50 costs for trading in cacao with the enemy. A report of the case is given in *The Times* of December 31st.

THE largest amount of sugar exported from British Guiana and the British West Indies in any one year was in 1887, when 342,752 tons were shipped. With modern methods of manufacture this quantity would have been over 440,000 tons.

MR. W. BURSLEM, M.A., Principal of Queen's Royal College, Trinidad, has been paying a flying visit to this country, and returns to Port of Spain by the R.M.S.P. *Trent* to-morrow. His friends will be pleased to learn that his health is completely restored.

MR. E. G. CONSTANTINE, Managing Director of the Stirling Boiler Co., Ltd., whose Chairman, as recorded elsewhere, has just received the honour of knighthood, having resigned, has been succeeded in the management by Mr. H. J. S. Mackay. Mr. Constantine remains a director of the company.

We regret to say that Mr. William Goodwin, formerly a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, is lying rather seriously ill in the private Bright Ward at Guy's Hospital. For some years past Mr. Goodwin has been a regular contributor to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

MR. W. GORDON GORDON, who has been making a longer stay in this country than usual, returns to Trinidad to-morrow, accompanied by his wife and infant child—both of whom we are glad to learn are in the best of health—his two step daughters and

his grand-daughter. If rumour speaks correctly Mr. Gordon, who has already enlivened Port of Spain by presenting a chiming clock to Queen's Royal College, is giving a complete set of brass instruments to the Reformatory. But more of this anon.

THE West India Committee Calendar for 1915, which has been posted to all subscribers, is embellished with a picture from the *Universal Magazine* of 1750, of "Sir Walter Raleigh's conquest of the city of St. Joseph in the Isle of Trinidad." For the benefit of those readers, who are not themselves subscribers, this interesting engraving is reproduced on this page. The event depicted took place in 1595, after Sir Walter Raleigh had visited the spot "called



*Sir Walter Raleigh's conquest of St. Joseph, Trinidad.*

See Note on this page.

by the naturals Piché, and by the Spaniards Tierra de Brea." (the Pitch Lake). A good deal of license has been taken by the artist who was evidently not informed that St. Joseph was two miles inland from the Gulf.

MR. E. A. H. HAGGART, who is at present in London, is taking an active part in the organisation of the National Guard, which is being formed to assist in the defence of London. The National Guard will consist of men over age for "Kitchener's Army," and the strength of the City of London Corps is intended to be ten thousand. Any gentlemen connected with the West Indies who may be

interested should communicate with Mr. Haggart, whose present address is c/o The Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue.

\* \* \*

We learn from *The Navy*—a journal which has enhanced its reputation since the war began—that there hangs in the wardroom of H.M.S. *Faulknor* an engraving depicting the death of the gallant Robert Faulknor, from whom she takes her name. On January 4th, 1795, Faulknor, who was captain of the old 12-pounder 32-gun frigate, *Blanche*, discovered the French 36-gun frigate, *Pique*, anchored outside the harbour of Point-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe. Soon afterwards the French ship weighed anchor and stood out towards the smaller and undergunned British frigate. After manœuvring for the whole day the two frigates became closely engaged, the *Pique* ran foul of the *Blanche*, and made several ineffectual attempts to board the British ship. At three o'clock in the morning (when courage is wanted) Captain Faulknor, a cheery soul, and his second lieutenant, David Milne, with some of the crew, lashed the bowsprit of the *Pique* to the capstan of the *Blanche*. Faulknor was shot through the heart by a musket ball. The lashings broke loose, but the bowsprit of the French ship was then lashed to the stump of the *Blanche*'s mainmast. In this manner the two ships played off before the wind and gradually the raking fire of the *Blanche* compelled the brave French crew to call for quarter.

\* \* \*

It is refreshing to learn that "Dignity Balls" as described in "Tom Cringle's Log," are not altogether things of the past in the West Indies. Here is an account of one held recently in a country village in Trinidad in aid of the local Patriotic Fund, from the pen of its organiser:—

The dance was on the 20th inst., 1914, but sorry to say that I had so much trouble, the people fight so much that I had to stop the dance a long time, this is the 3rd dance at the — Lodge and so much fighting, I am afraid that if things go on in this way — will have a murder (*sic*) case, because the fight was so strong I went to part and a man gave me two cuffs in my face, a woman got her hand well bite up. A gentleman got a blow from a man in the face but did not return it. It looks as the people up to now do not think first before they speak. . . . My trouble strat first the — members who promise to give me the Lodge cheap as it was in aid of the war fund, but up to the last moment they say that the Government charge \$3.60 for house rate so they cannot give it cheaper than \$240 which is the price to anybody we don't matter what fund it is, so I paid \$240. I beg to thanks the — for their help which I am a member of, also to Mr. and Mrs. —, who give their new cab at a small rate to bring up the band from train. Sir, after so much trouble I still got through but only sorry we had no bar after paying everything. I am glad to send up ten dollars \$10.00 and please post me a — paper that I can show the people of — that the money has gone to the war fund and not to myself as they was speaking. Sir I am quite ready to help in any way and at any moment.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

### Over a million dollars taken in tolls.

Fresh records are constantly being made by the Panama Canal, the latest being the passage of the first sailing vessels through the waterway. They were the British schooner *Zeta* and the American yacht *Athene*, which entered the Canal in tow of a tug on November 28th and reached Balboa two days later.

The extent to which the Canal is being used is shown by the statistics given in that admirable little paper the *Canal Record*. From these it appears that the tolls on vessels making use of the Canal reached and passed \$1,000,000 mark on November 18th, while at the close of November 30th the total collected amounted to \$1,135,242.40.

The collection of tolls began in May, 1914, with the starting of a traffic in barges, towed by Canal tugs, which lasted until the opening of the Canal to ocean going vessels on August 15th. The following is a summary of the receipt of tolls, by months, to December 1st:—

	\$
Prior to August 15	11,610.69
August 15 to 31	88,401.80
September 1 to 30	269,863.00
October 1 to 31	378,087.12
November 1 to 30	387,242.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,135,242.40</b>

The transits of vessels during this period, with the totals of cargo carried, were, with reference to direction, from Pacific to Atlantic, or eastbound, and from Atlantic to Pacific, or westbound, as follows:

Month.	Eastbound.		Westbound.		Total.	
	Ves- sels.	Cargo.	Ves- sels.	Cargo.	Ves- sels.	Cargo.
Aug. . . . .	12	57,182	12	49,106	24	106,288
Sept. . . . .	30	186,776	27	135,262	57	322,038
Oct. . . . .	40	252,288	44	168,069	84	420,357
Nov. . . . .	38	242,221	54	206,510	92	448,731
<b>Total...</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>738,537</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>558,947</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1,297,484</b>

Of the total of 257 vessels, 227 were laden and 30 were in ballast, or by nature not cargo-carrying vessels.

A distributed over the principal routes on which the traffic through the Canal is moving, the transits to December 1st may be summarised as follows:—

	No. of vessels.	Canal tonnage.
Coastwise, eastbound	54	320,155
Coastwise, westbound	61	282,020
U.S. Pacific coast to Europe	31	248,020
Europe to U.S. Pacific coast	8	38,318
South America to U.S. and Europe	21	166,917
U.S. and Europe to South America	15	74,614
U.S. Atlantic coast to Far East	24	118,207
Miscellaneous routings	7	19,203
Vessels without cargo	30	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1,297,484</b>

### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE opening of the New Year finds the country in an easy frame of mind regarding the supply and the cost of food. Perhaps the highest tribute to the work of the Navy is the congestion of the London Docks. Never in the history of the port has there been so much merchandise stored and waiting to be stored in the dock warehouses. Every berth is occupied and many liners were recently anchored off Gravesend awaiting their turn. Some 6,500 dock labourers are at work as compared with 5,000 in normal times, and employment could immediately be found for hundreds more.

PROMINENT among the vast stores of food thus housed are 80,000 tons of sugar—part of the stock purchased by the Government. Tobacco also has come in in such quantity that the authorities have warned shippers that for the present they are hesitating to take any more. This unwonted activity is not confined to London. Liverpool also is grappling with enormous imports. Dock labourers, whose grievances in recent years have figured so prominently in labour troubles, can now earn £6 weekly if they choose. The worries of the port authorities are increased by the fact that very frequently they do not so choose, but prefer to work "off and on" for a few days—an experience common in the West.

WHILE the supply of necessaries is thus assured, the patronage of luxuries is being restricted, and among the luxuries so barred many men are beginning to count their club subscriptions. It is not merely that many club men have gone to the front; others are resigning, and there are fewer candidates for election. And this at a time when the cost of "running" clubs is greater than in former years. Nor is it the membership alone that is affected. Culinary arrangements are disturbed by the fact that so many chefs have been called away for service.

LORD KITCHENER has given small encouragement to the pessimists who are dissatisfied with the progress of recruiting. The refusal of the Minister for War to find fault with the numbers that are being enrolled is strengthened by the experience of the Parliamentary Committee. As our readers are aware circulars are being addressed to householders throughout the country. So far returns are to hand from only a limited area, but they reveal promises to enlist from 225,000 men. The majority of the Military Districts have yet to be circularised, together with the large cities and towns, but the outlook is distinctly promising.

ALREADY there is talk of the political results of the war as regards the federation of the Empire. The Dominions are making known their opinion that they shall have a voice in the determination of foreign policy, and of the great questions of peace

and war. It is even urged that an Imperial Conference shall be held this year. This discussion may seem a little premature, seeing that we are as yet in the midst of the struggle. We may assume, however, that in any scheme for drawing closer the bonds of Empire on a material basis, the claims of the Crown Colonies will carry a weight hitherto unknown. An Imperial Conference containing no representatives of our tropical dependencies is a misnomer. Now that their loyalty and self-sacrifice have been demonstrated to the full extent of their capacity, our more scattered possessions will doubtless be granted places at the family table.

THE many friends of Sir Alfred Lucie Smith, Chief Justice of Trinidad, will be interested in the news of the marriage of his eldest son, Captain John Alfred Lucie Smith, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, to Kate Theodora, only daughter of the late Mr. Theodore Pile, of Trinidad, and of Mrs. Pile, now resident at Brockley, England. The bridegroom represents a family long distinguished in the public service of the West Indies. His grandfather, the late Sir John Lucie Smith was Chief Justice of Jamaica, and his uncle, Sir William Haynes-Smith, was, in turn, Attorney-General of British Guiana, and Governor of the Windward Islands.

THE West Indies were well remembered in the New Year Honours List. Of the five K.C.M.G.s conferred, two went to the Caribbean—to Mr. Wilfred Collet, Governor of British Honduras, and to Mr. Haddon Smith, the new Governor of the Windward Islands. The new Knights Bachelor include Mr. R. S. Johnstone, the late Chief Justice of Grenada; Mr. William K. Chandler, C.M.G., Master in Chancery, Barbados; Mr. H. S. Holt, President of the Royal Bank of Canada, (now so widely represented in our constituency); and Mr. John Cowan, founder of the Stirling Boiler Co., Ltd., and Chairman of the Company since its inception. Sir Louis Mallet, lately British Ambassador in Constantinople, who is promoted G.C.M.G. is brother to Sir C. C. Mallet, British Consul in Panama. The C.M.G. conferred on Mr. E. A. Gramum, Receiver General of Mauritius recalls a name well-known in the West Indies. The King's Police Medal for Gallantry has been conferred on Lieut. Col. Edward Bell, Chief Inspector in the Windward Islands.

THE Earl of Harewood, Vice-President of the West India Committee, is placed in mourning by the death of his brother-in-law, the Earl of Bradford. Lady Harewood, prior to her marriage was Lady Florence Bridgeman. The founder of the family which has long been settled in Shropshire, was Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in the seventeenth century. The name Orlando has since been borne by the majority of the male members of the family, which in more recent times has won fresh distinction by the naval services of Admiral Sir F. Bridgeman.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.



All our correspondents, extracts from whose letters are given below, write in a cheerful strain, which reflects the feeling of confidence in the ultimate success of the Allies arms, and gratitude to our Navy for keeping the trade routes open, which is felt by all West Indians. Speculation was rife regarding the fate of the German cruiser *Karlsruhe*, some wreckage and life buoys bearing her name having been washed ashore off Grenada. By some it was thought that this might be the result of a German ruse, while the hope was uppermost in the hearts of all that the German raider might have sunk. It says much for the importance of the Sea Island cotton industry of the West Indies that a second representative of the Fine Spinners and Doublers Association has toured the Islands. Mr. Fonda, the delegate in question, has been most favourably impressed by the conditions of cultivation in the various cotton growing islands, and incidentally has given some further valuable hints, which the growers are not likely to lose sight of. The R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* delivered her mails and passengers at Falmouth, where she anchored at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6th, and her cargo at Newport, Mon.

#### BARBADOS—The Dutch Standard in Canada.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., DECEMBER 21ST.—The weather is getting distinctly cooler, and the fresh trade winds are beginning reminding us of the approach of Christmas. The planting of the young crop is pretty well finished, and as weather conditions are generally favourable, there should be a good spring. The Agricultural Society held their Annual Industrial Exhibition on 16th inst. at Queen's Park. The exhibits in the agricultural and horticultural classes were very creditable, considering the unfavourable weather during a part of the year. There was a large attendance of visitors, and the show was on the whole a success. Prize giving ceremonies have taken place at Harrison's College, the Lodge School, Queen's College, and the Combermere School. Information to the effect that the Canadian Customs intend to lower the Dutch Standard has been received by a merchant here. The result will be to penalise a nice, clear, clean, centrifugal muscovado sugar which we send to Canada for direct consumption, and will give us trouble if it applies also to dark 96° crystals.

[This matter is, as stated in a recent issue, engaging the attention of the West India Committee, who have approached the Foreign Office with regard to the Dutch Standards recently issued in Amsterdam. Ed.]

#### BRITISH GUIANA—The death of Mr. L. Psaila.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, DECEMBER 19th.—The mail steamer was two days late in arriving. Further representations have been made to the Government respecting the accumulation of sugar at the end of the year due to the retention of the 8 per cent. for local consumption. There is no demand at the moment from the local dealers, and in fact some agents have the greatest difficulty in selling any of their sugar—quality as you will understand is a great factor in such transactions. I regret to advise the

death of Mr. L. Psaila on the 8th instant at the age of 80. Mr. Psaila was the oldest Water Street merchant. At a meeting held on the 14th inst. the Hon. J. P. Santos, M.C.P. for Berbice, read an important paper on irrigation on the Corentyne. Out of 35 applications for Commissions in the British Army, the Governor has selected 13 candidates who leave by the mail for England.

Their names are: E. A. Freeman (Pln. Diamond), W. A. Carruthers (Clerk, Government Secretariat), S. E. Parson (Pln. Wales), S. W. Vardee (Pln. Anna Regina), J. W. Walker (Pln. Skeldon), A. McArthur (Pln. Skeldon), A. Mitchell (Pln. Wales), R. Thompson (Assistant Commissary, Mahaica District), G. D. Sandison (New Amsterdam), H. Pike (Pln. Wales), N. H. J. Goodaere (Pln. Providence), W. R. Kennard (Pln. Cane Grove), J. B. Morris (Pln. Golden Pleece, Essequibo). His Excellency is entertaining them at a private dinner at Government House this evening.

The Government are reverting to the old system, which was discontinued some six months ago, of railway travelling post offices. A branch of the Baby Saving League has been started at Buxton, B.C. The weather during the fortnight has been showery, and favourable generally for the estates.

#### DOMINICA—The proposed new coastal service.

MR. B. AGAR, DECEMBER 20th.—Nothing further has been heard of our road expert, but I presume this is inevitable during the general upset of things. Mr. Drayton goes on leave directly, and we hear that Mr. Roxburgh is coming to act. An Acting Administrator cannot do much in the way of administration, but everyone who knows the Administrator of St. Kitts likes him. The weather has been exceedingly wet for most of the past fortnight, in fact we had one day's rain that did us some little damage to roads and properties along rivers. We had the same experience last year, and almost on the same date. An excellent concert was organised by Mrs. Didler in aid of War Relief Funds, and held this week: I understand that the amount realised will not be far short of £100. Once again the *Yare* has notified that her work here does not pay, and that she is leaving at the end of the year, and tenders are being invited for a motor boat postal and passenger service for the Leeward Coast and for a freight service by schooner with auxiliary power for the rest of the coast. At first sight this looks like a retrograde move, but I do not think it is really. There is no question about our being better able to afford a subsidized service than ever before, and there is far more cargo offering. But it is time we considered our position in the matter. It was at first thought that £500 would enable us to run a steamer, but the *Yare* came on originally (if I remember rightly) at £900. This subsidy has steadily been increased until we now pay £2,000, and in spite of the much greater quantity of freight carried, she still "does not pay." So I think it will be a good thing if we decide to run schooners for some time and give us time to look about and get this question of coastal service properly settled, for hitherto we have always acceded to the *Yare's* demands, feeling that it was by no means satisfactory, but afraid of being left without a coastal service at all.

[The above are given as Mr. Agar's personal views. It would seem that residents on the Windward side do not concur in them, and no doubt the question will be ventilated in all its aspects.]

#### GRENADA—Cacao shipments still ahead of 1913.

MR. C. FALCONER ANTON, DECEMBER 21st.—Our Acting Governor, W. Douglas Young, Esq., C.M.G., left us by last mail for St. Lucia, and our new Governor, George

Haddon-Smith, Esq., C.M.G., is expected to arrive on or about the 30th instant. The shipments of cacao for the period from 1st October to 7th December by the statement kindly supplied by Messrs. Martin Dean and Co., were 5,109 bags as against 4,419 bags in the corresponding period last year. Among the passengers who arrived by last mail were Mr. Frank Berkeley, Dr. Lessey, the new house surgeon, Dr. and Mrs. Orford (Mrs. Orford went on to Dominica), and the Rev. Father Lowe, from England; among the departures were H.B. W. Douglas Young, C.M.G., and Miss Young, and Mr. C. N. Rice, chief clerk to the Governor. Dr. Howard, Director of the International Health Commission in the West Indies, who spent a short time here, left for Trinidad on the 18th inst. Mr. H. A. Bascom, Third Treasury Clerk, Grenada, has, I understand been appointed Audit Clerk, St. Lucia, in succession to Mr. Lucas Kerr, who has been appointed Revenue Officer and Warden of the Vieux Fort District in St. Lucia. There were 158 entrants in this year's Cocoa Prize Holdings' Competition, an increase of ten on last year's, representing in round figures, 224 acres of the peasants' cacao cultivation; and prizes to the amount of £129 were distributed to 61. Mr. Joseph Marechau, of Mon Plaisir, in the parish of St. John's, was awarded the Governor's Cup, in addition to which he is to be the recipient of a silver cup to be presented by the Agricultural and Commercial Society. A new newspaper to be called the *West Indian*, is to be started by the issue on the first of next year of a Special Christmas Number.

The local treasurer of the Prince of Wales' and Red Cross Funds is to-day making a second remittance of £440 to the former and £60 to the latter. Mr. Watkins (Administrator) presented the prizes to-day to the prize winners in the St. George's (1914) Cacao Prize Holdings Competition—£25 to 13, which will come in handy as a Christmas Box.

#### MONTSERRAT—Good weather for ground provisions.

MR. K. P. BENCHEEN, DECEMBER 20th.—Weather conditions have been favourable for the past fortnight, for the crops being planted, cane and corn, it is not time for the planting of cotton yet, when the time comes we hope there will be more inducement to plant than exists at present. A considerable amount of cotton is here ready for shipment probably over 600 bales, and our main object now is to get money to carry on without being forced to ship, to meet ruinous expenses and ruinous prices. Lieut.-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissioner of Montserrat, leaves by the R.M.S. to-night, being called home by the War Office. His Honour Leslie Jarvis, Esq., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands comes to act in his place.

#### NEVIS—Dr. J. P. Mussen to act as Chief Magistrate.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, DECEMBER 20th.—I am pleased to report that we are experiencing fine rains, and vegetation on the whole is good. Provisions locally grown will be soon plentiful, and the strain that has begun to make itself keenly felt by the poorer classes, owing to the scarcity of these articles and the advanced price of imported food-stuffs will prove a great blessing. The cotton crop is about 75 per cent. reaped. The R.M.S. *Balantia* will take away about 150 bales. The Hon. Charles Greaves, Magistrate of the Island, has gone on leave for six months; it is hoped that he will enjoy to the full his much deserved rest. Dr. J. P. Mussen, Chief Medical Officer, acts as magistrate in the interim. It is sincerely to be hoped that this appointment will not rob Dr. Mussen of his time, which he so ungrudgingly doles to all classes, and has won for him great respect. A well attended and most successful concert was given by the Anglican Church in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund.

Mr. Fonda, of the Fine Spinners and Doublers Association, Manchester, spoke lengthily at a meeting of planters under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Mussen was chairman on this occasion.

#### ST. KITTS—The marketing of Sea Island Cotton.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, DECEMBER 18th.—The weather continues reasonable, with frequent showers and the Christmas winds are coming in; but there is very little cane heavy enough to "lodge" or blow down this year, growth being backward owing to the recent drought. Dr. Lionel Skinner, Veterinary Surgeon, holding an American degree and practising in Barbados, has visited the island during the fortnight with a view to considering practising here; and it is generally expected that he will accept an appointment. The office is to be a Government one at a fixed salary, fees for services rendered or annual payments to be paid into the Treasury—not an ideal arrangement, but the best we could manage under the circumstances. Mr. J. L. Fonda representing the Fine Cotton Spinners' Association, Ltd., has also had a look at the island, and he met the Agricultural and Commercial Society on Saturday, the 12th inst., and talked over cotton matters. I gathered from him that the cotton grown in these islands was the finest in the world, and unsurpassed in its particular grading; and we had nothing to fear from Egypt, or anyone else. He deprecated the raising of hybrid cottons. He made a note of several complaints of the length of time generally elapsing between the shipment and the sale of the cotton, and he promised to endeavour to arrange a time limit of 30 days for the taking over of cotton by the Fine Spinners from the British Cotton Growing Association. Mr. A. O. Thurston voiced the general opinion of the meeting than an average price of 1s. 6d. per lb. was necessary in order to give stability to the industry. It was generally recognised that cotton was one of the markets most seriously affected by the present war—and while Mr. Fonda advised, and in fact expected, decreased sowings during the present crisis, he urged that we should not lose touch with cotton altogether.

#### ST. LUCIA—The change of Administrators.

HON. GEORGE S. HUDSON, DECEMBER 20th.—The weather during December has been rather wet—very suitable for young cane cultivation, but rather spoiling the chance of good cacao pickings during the coming "small" crop. His Honour W. Douglas Young is leaving us for the Falkland Islands, after such a short term of Administration that officially he still remains a "dark horse," but socially we shall miss the geniality of both Miss Young and himself, and regret that their stay in St. Lucia was so short. Mr. Condell, Inspector of Schools here, is to accompany Mr. Young to the Falklands as Colonial Secretary, and everyone wishes him success in his new sphere: Mr. Condell did much for primary education in St. Lucia. If St. Lucia had been allowed to choose her new Administrator there would be no doubt she would have asked for the privilege of being under the man elected for that post, the Hon. Charles Gideon Murray, and I think that is all I need say. It is a little unfortunate that Mr. Murray comes to us at a time when revenue is below expenditure, but this state of affairs is likely to be quite temporary, and everyone believes that there is going to be progress in St. Lucia, and Mr. Murray is the Administrator to encourage it. A universally signed testimonial is to be presented to the Hon. Anthony De Freitas, thanking him for the smoothness and well-being of St. Lucia during the last five months when he has been Acting Administrator. The quiet orderliness and benignity of Mr. De Freitas' sway has really been remarkable, and it has occurred at a rather trying and difficult time.



**ST. VINCENT—Mr. R. B. Roden's promotion.**

MR. W. N. SANDS, DECEMBER 26th.—The news had recently been received by cable that our esteemed Administrator, the Hon. C. Gideon Murray, had been promoted to a similar post in St. Lucia. I hope in a subsequent letter to give you a short account of the substantial progress made by the colony in various directions under Mr. Murray's successful administration. The weather still continues to be on the wet side and hampers cotton picking. Besides the contribution from public funds of the colony of £2,000 for the Imperial Government for war purposes—part of which has been spent in the purchase of arrowroot for the troops, I should like to mention that local planters and merchants have privately made a gift of 250 barrels of arrowroot valued at about £750 to the home authorities. In addition a sum of £400 has been collected and forwarded to the Prince of Wales' Fund. Local ladies are busy making articles of warm clothing for the troops in the field, and already several parcels have been sent on by the Hon. C. Gideon Murray. You will see that we are trying to do our little bit in one way or the other. Another official change to record is the promotion of His Honour R. B. Roden, Chief Justice, to the Chief Justiceship of British Honduras.

**TOBAGO—A proposal to increase the Land Tax.**

MR. ROBERT S. REID, DECEMBER 18th.—The R.M.S. *Danube* was exceptionally late. All the same we have reason to be grateful to the Navy and the R.M.S.P. Co. for keeping up the regular mail service in spite of war and hostile cruisers. [Mr. Reid had evidently not heard of the cancellation of a contract sailing by the R.M.S.P. Company.] The recent naval victory off the Falklands caused great rejoicing here and confirms our belief and pride in our glorious fleet. We hope that the few remaining German cruisers may shortly be swept from the seas. It is disappointing that war compels the R.M.S.P. Co. to curtail their itinerary, and raise not only freights but rates of passage. The latter has always been considered "maximum" as compared with other steamship fares, but we can only hope that circumstances may shortly permit a return to the usual rates. Tobago would be sorry to lose any of its young men who have volunteered for active service in these war times. Another young Scot has recently been added to the list—Mr. James Murray—who is said to be now at the front in the Field Ambulance Corps. The Belgian Concert in Scarborough realised over £45, and we are promised a Red Cross Concert there early in the New Year. It makes one proud of the Empire to see every little corner of it doing its best to help. Private subscriptions count as voluntary efforts, but increased taxation makes the best of us squirm! The Government proposal to double the land tax raised quite a storm of protest as being unduly hard on agriculture, especially as the only other additional tax—on tobacco and spirits—hit all round. It was felt that all parties should bear a share and a percentage on imports seemed most equitable, but "free traders" raised the question of the "food of the poor," forgetting that the majority in that category are interested directly or indirectly in the land. Capitalists and officials as usual escape, and the latter are not so generous as to tax themselves as has most patriotically been done in some other colonies. We are having reasonable and favourable weather, and the cacao crop is rapidly ripening. Planters are now in hopes that prices will continue about present basis, especially in Tobago where the crop was short last year and quantity and price are both needed to recoup past losses.

**TRINIDAD—Agriculture and the local Council.**

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, DECEMBER 22nd.—The proposed land tax, as I ventured to anticipate, has gone the way of many better measures. A faint attempt to palliate the withdrawal was made by suggesting the reduction of the extra impost from 1s. to 3d. per acre, but the Legislative Council would have none of it, and unconditional surrender from and indefensible position resulted. A Committee of Council was then appointed to consider and recommend how the expected deficit could be met. This Committee was given one week to report. They reported in due course, recommending that in place of the proposals of the Government for taxation upon land, aerated waters, and trade licenses, export taxes for the year 1915 should be imposed as follows: On sugar, 3s. per 1,000 lbs., estimated to give £16,000; on cacao 2½d. per 100 lbs., estimated to give £5,210; on coco-nuts 1s. 6d. per 1,000 nuts, estimated to give £1,350; and copra, 5s. per 1,000 lbs., estimated to give £375, etc., making a total of £23,735. The sugar planters were not slow to point out that by the amended tax that industry will be called upon to pay instead of 1s. per acre, the equivalent of 9s. 6d. per acre against the cacao man's 7½d. per acre, but they pleaded in vain; and the Ordinance went through in all its stages. Of course, opinions are divided as to the fair incidence of these taxes, but there is this to be said in favour that no one is called to pay until his produce is marketable, whereas the former suggested method would have fallen with equal severity upon the struggling owner bringing his property into cultivation. The Hon. Adam Smith was in favour of a course often before adopted in Barbados, viz: a special surtax, say of 10 per cent. on the amount of all duties collected on other imports than the food of the poor—the amount so received to be earmarked as a war tax, and removed with the termination of the war. This would have given the required amount, and would have caused no trouble or extra machinery in collection. It was approved by the Chamber of Commerce, but rejected by the special Committee in favour of the export tax. Perhaps they were right, although many people very competent to judge don't think so. But they were a Committee in a hurry. They really had not the time for serious consideration, and no doubt they did their best. At the last meeting of the Agricultural Society when the matter of the land tax was being discussed, Sir Norman Lamont made a very pertinent observation in the course of a lucid speech. He asked what could one expect when on the official side in the Legislative Council there was no one to represent agriculture—here in a country almost altogether dependent on agriculture? In the United Kingdom no ministry would be complete without a Minister of Agriculture, but here the Director of the Department of Agriculture had not even a seat on the Legislative Council. I fancy Sir Norman's hint, which is very much to the point, will be given effect to. Knowing the *Good Hope* and many of her officers as we did here, it was with peculiar gratification we heard that her tragic end had so speedily been avenged. We are hoping to see the victorious British squadron with the prizes here soon. To-day's telegrams put the *Invincible* at Monte Video, apparently on the way up. Let us hope she will fall in with the *Karlshute* on the way.

The alteration of the itinerary of the Royal Mail steamers will be inconvenient for Trinidad specially, by reason of the date of the arrival of the mail being one day after the departure of the homeward boat, leaving an unconscionable interval for the reply to letters. The Trinidad Line of steamers, via New York, are scheduled to leave two days after the mail arrivals, and, if they continue to do so, will

provide to a certain extent for our requirements, but not to the full extent. So far as New York is concerned we are amply supplied by other and quicker routes, and as for Jamaica the trade with that colony is negligible. In any case, we have nothing to say after the steamers get beyond this port westward. Our subsidy is a substantial one, and we look for compensating advantages wherever possible. At the same time the feeling is, as confirmed by the Chamber of Commerce and other leading merchants, that in the war circumstances we should be satisfied that the Company is doing, and will do, all that is reasonable in view of the extreme difficulties it is experiencing from the same causes, especially as it is understood that the changes are temporary, and will end with the termination of the war. The Races of the Trinidad Turf Club will take place as usual on the 26th and 28th, and bid fair to be successful, although many families will unhappily be in mourning and absent owing to recent family losses in the war. Welcome rains have been falling in all parts of the country, and cultivation looks healthy and promising everywhere.

*The charge of 2s. 6d. is made for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths (which must be authenticated) and of "Wants," Crossed cheques or P.O. Orders, should be made payable to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.*

#### MARRIAGE.

**Lomax-Scard**—On Dec. 30, at St. Mary Abbott's Kensington, John Francis Lomax, late H.M. Colonial Service), son of the late Rev. J. J. Lomax, M.A., vicar of Breinton, Herefordshire, to Maude Isenbart (Phyllis), daughter of F. I. Scard, F.I.C., formerly of British Guiana, and Mrs. Scard, of Upper Norwood.

#### DEATH.

**Hughes**.—On the 30th December, died of wounds received after Christmas, 2nd Lieut. Guy Willie Hughes, 4th Batt. Middlesex Regt., youngest son of George Hughes, Field-head, Wimbledon.

#### WANT.

Lady returning shortly to West Indies would be glad to hear of someone who would help with children. Remuneration given.—Apply M., 36, Zalla Road, Nottingham.

We learn from Montserrat that Mrs. Davidson-Houston, the wife of the Commissioner, has received a letter from a Lady-in-waiting thanking her on behalf of the Queen for a gift of clothing made for Her Majesty's Needlework Guild by the women of the island. The clothing, which comprised 1,700 garments packed in 305 bundles, and included pinafores, overalls, shirts, etc., were made under the superintendence of a Committee, including Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Studley, Miss Furlonge, and Miss Monica Haines, who will no doubt be gratified to learn that the work made by the women of Montserrat has, through the kindness of Mrs. Harcourt, been brought before the personal notice of the Queen.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), the "Cane Sugar Factory" (1s.; post free 1s. 2d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda (5s.; post free 5s. 4d.), are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

*The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR—Re the West India Committee's request for information as to the available areas for sugar cultivation, your St. Lucia correspondent writes: "It would be more easy to answer your queries if we knew that the price of sugar would be maintained," etc., etc.

May I be allowed to tell your St. Lucia correspondent that the special need of the moment is to know how many thousands of acres of good sugar producing land there are available for growing sugar.

The immediate struggle will in all probability be between a sufficiently heavily taxed cane product and a tax-fostered, or bounty-fed beetroot product. If the members of the British Government realise that there "x" thousands of acres only needing fair treatment, belonging to the Empire, able within a year to produce "yx" tons of character both for sweetness and for wholesomeness far superior to beetroot sugar, which they will not for the present at any rate desire to get from Germany, the chances are that those who have spoiled the West Indian islands through their rage for mere cheapness will not be so attentively listened to as they have been in times past. Wherefor it behoves all the British West Indian islands to answer the question of available area without the delay of a single moment that can be avoided. The question of protection, or whatever you like to call it, will have to be fought out afterwards—but those who can say "we can supply you with 2, 3, 4, or whatever number may prove correct, of millions of tons of sugar within the Empire, if only the Empire deals fairly with us," will be in a much stronger position against the Pro-German party than those who can only say, "we think we might do something and will try to find out."

Yours faithfully,

A JAMAICA PROPRIETOR.

Pottaloch, Kilmartin, Argyll.

January 6th, 1915.

## WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

### Petroleum Options, Ltd.

At an extraordinary general meeting on December 18th a resolution was passed consolidating the 300,000 unissued ordinary shares in such manner that every five shall constitute one 5s. share, and authorising the directors to issue such consolidated shares, to be known as 10 per cent. participating shares. Mr. A. A. G. Kindell, who presided, said that since the appointment of the new board some two months ago they had ascertained that among the assets held was a large parcel of shares in their subsidiary company, the Trinidad United Oilfields, Ltd., of the nominal value of £47,000. The area owned by the concern in the form of a lease from the Crown for thirty years was one mile square, and the two shallow wells already producing upon it showed a minimum output of 10 barrels a day each, and they were told by the highest oil authorities that upon the area in question there was room for no less than 200 wells. It was only necessary to drill to a depth of about

180 ft. to obtain such a production per well as he had named, and with the modern light and inexpensive system of rotary drilling which had proved so successful in Trinidad, with only one boring outfit, at least one new well could be brought into operation every week. It was the board's intention that the shareholders' rights to subscribe for them should receive the first consideration.

#### The Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration, Ltd.

At the general meeting of this concern in December 29, Mr. Richard Barnett, Chairman, spoke of the disappointing result of their quest for oil in Venezuela, and said that they did not feel justified in incurring the very heavy expenditure which the opening up of a new field would have involved. In Trinidad, however, the question was as to the quantity of oil obtainable. The quality of the oil was beyond all reproach, but the proved supply was not sufficiently great to justify a large expenditure of capital, such as the construction of pipe lines and the provision of adequate tankage would require. But towards the end of our financial year they made a very remarkable discovery. They struck a very prolific oil source in well No. 5 at a depth of 1,027 ft. They immediately drilled another well (No. 7) to this horizon. At a depth of 1,150 ft. they struck the same source, and it yielded over 1,000 tons of oil in a few hours. It thus became necessary, before they could do anything to augment largely the available storage. That work had taken some little time, and had only now been completed. Meantime they had sunk another well (No. 9), and this well had already spouted at a depth of 1,020 ft. This work had only been possible with the assistance of their parent company, the Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd. That company up to June 30 last had advanced no less than £23,105 on very reasonable terms.

They had always had in view an eventual issue of further capital in order to extinguish this liability; but, unfortunately, the conditions had not been at all favourable to petroleum finance. In these circumstances, they had disposed of the Trinidad interests of the company on terms which relieved it of its large liability to the Oilfields Finance Corporation. Those terms relieved them also of the final instalment of the cash purchase consideration for the property, which had remained in abeyance, and the Corporation had paid a sum of £42,167 in fully-paid shares of £1 each in the new company, with a royalty of 5 per cent. on all oil produced from wells Nos. 1 to 7, inclusive, after deducting oil used for fuel.

#### The Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd.

Presiding over the fifth ordinary general meeting on December 29th Sir James Pender said that the company existed purely as a holding company, practically its only assets being the 285,000 fully-paid "C" shares which it possessed in the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. The financial year of that company terminated on the 31st December, 1914, and it was not possible, therefore, to give any particulars as to the progress made by it. The "C" shares could not be distributed without winding up the Trinidad Oilfields company, against which an action was pending in connection with an option over certain prospecting licenses in the district of Barrackpore. If the action went against them in the Trinidad Courts they intended to appeal and it was therefore inadvisable to wind up the company. Meanwhile the interests of the shareholders were being watched by the Hon. Thomas Cochrane as their representative on the Board of the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. In conclusion, Sir James Pender moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet. Sir Corbet Woodall seconded, and the motion was carried without discussion. Sir Corbet Woodall and Mr. Harry C. B. Underdown, the retiring directors were re-elected.

#### Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

The first ordinary general meeting of this company was held on December 29th last, Mr. Louis Reyersbach, chairman, presiding. In the course of his remarks Mr. Reyersbach mentioned that the La Carrière property, situated at Point à Pierre, had been purchased with a view to being used as a site on which a refinery could be erected should the further development of the oilfields warrant this course. The area of this property was approximately 20 acres, and they had secured an option to purchase about 50 additional acres of adjacent land on satisfactory terms. The greatest outlay for development had been in connection with the Forest Reserve which they had decided to prove as early as possible. This particular area was covered by extremely thick forest and undergrowth, and it was necessary to construct and repair some five and a half miles of road in order to gain access to the drilling sites located by the geologists. Bungalows had to be built, engine sheds and machine shops erected, and a fresh water supply installed before drilling could be started. In April of this year the drilling of well No. 1 was commenced, and oil in payable quantities was reached in the upper or "A" sand early in May at a depth of about 100 ft. The existence of oil at a comparative shallow depth was expected by their geologists, but they did not anticipate that it would be met with in such quantities. A second sand "B" was encountered in the same well towards the middle of May at a depth of approximately 300 ft., which gave practically a similar output as sand "A," but was shut off after about a month's testing. In order to prove the lower strata from which the geologists expected the best results to be obtained, this well was drilled deeper, and encountered a third, or "C" sand, at a depth of about 500 ft. On reaching this sand the oil gushed out freely, spouting to some 30 or 40 ft. above the top of the derrick. This sand had also continued to yield very satisfactorily, but so far it had been impossible to gauge its thickness, on account of the extremely heavy gas pressure which is met with whenever an attempt is made to drill deeper. Well No. 2 was commenced at the end of May, and oil was struck, at a slightly greater depth than in well No. 1, in sand "A" in the middle of June, and sand "B" was reached at the end of the same month. Sand "C" was encountered at the end of July at a depth of 800 ft., and had given very gratifying results. The war had affected the company's activities to a considerable extent but the production from the first two wells to the end of September amounted to 38,800 barrels, of which some 30,000 barrels, or approximately 5,000 tons, were stored in earthen reservoirs at that date. This was after allowing for oil used on the field and the estimated loss caused by evaporation and soakage. The latest cable received reported that the production to date was 57,000 barrels. The working capital still available was £14,000, and arrangements had been made for securing a loan of £60,000, the Central Mining and Investment Corporation agreeing to subscribe 70 per cent. of that sum. The loan which would carry interest at 6 per cent. was to be repaid within two and a half years, failing which the lenders were to have the option of calling for either 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares or 6 per cent. debentures. Further, the lenders were to have an option on 32,500 unissued shares at par for two and a half years from January 1, 1915, and a contingent option at par for the same period on 27,500 shares ex the 100,000 shares at present under option until August 20 next, in the event of the latter option not being exercised. With regard to the quality of oil produced Dr. R. Lessing had reported most favourably. The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by Major H. L. Sapte, and carried.

#### E. A. de Pass and Company, Ltd.

This private company was registered on 29th September. The capital is £20,400, in 2,000 7 per cent cumulative preference shares of £10 and 8,000 ordinary shares of 1s. each. The objects are to carry on the business of importers, exporters, produce brokers, commission agents, etc., in the West Indies or elsewhere, etc.

Latest Quotations.		Prices Jan 11.
4 1/2 %	Antigua Redeemable 1919-44 ...	97
4 1/2 %	Barbados ... Redeemable 1925-42 ...	85
4 1/2 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1935 ...	98
4 1/2 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1923-45 ...	76
4 1/2 %	Grenada Redeemable 1917-42 ...	96
4 1/2 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1934 ...	99
4 1/2 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1919-49 ...	87
4 1/2 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1922-44 ...	75
4 1/2 %	St. Lucia Redeemable 1919-44 ...	97
4 1/2 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1917-42 ...	77
4 1/2 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1922-44 ...	98
12 %	The Colonial Bank ...	5 1/2
12 %	The Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (Montreal Exchange) ...	\$222
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...	86 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...	9 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures ...	101-103
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures ...	100-100 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures ...	99-101 1/2
6 1/2 %	Angostura Bitters Preference (L1) ...	7 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	102-105
4 1/2 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (L1 shares) ...	10 1/2
4 1/2 %	United British of Trinidad "A" shares (L1) ...	10 1/2
4 1/2 %	" " " " "B" " (L1) ...	10 1/2
4 1/2 %	" " " " "C" " (L1) ...	10 1/2
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ...	35 1/2
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref. ...	106 1/2
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ...	82 1/2
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures ...	85 1/2
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures ...	98-100
4 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	1-1 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref ...	8 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " " " and " " ...	8 1/2-8 3/4
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	98-101

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Trent, (Captain R. Hayes), Jan. 13th:—

Mr. & Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. John Solosy	Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Anderson
Mr. Wm. Douglas	Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Harison	Mr. V. L. Shortt
Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Arthur	Mr. Fredk. Woodcock	Mrs. E. D. Swain
Mr. L. F. Noursa	Mr. C. A. Cassan	Misses Swain (2)
Mr. R. Bryson	Miss E. Robinson	Misses Skinner (2)
The Hon. T. A. V. Best	Mr. R. C. Rhodes	Mrs. M. C. M. Lea
Mr. W. Burslem	Mr. C. C. George	Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Drucher
Mr. W. R. Dunlop	Mr. R. W. Jarvis	Mr. John Read
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gordon	Mr. F. S. Smith	Mrs. E. C. S. Poilard
Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Savage	Mrs. E. C. Wright	Dr. & Mrs. Darwent
Mr. & Mrs. Fuller	Mr. H. P. Tigar	Miss E. da Costa
Mrs. C. J. Clarke	Mr. A. D. Clarke	Miss F. W. Ferguson
Miss R. da Costa	Mr. E. D. Forte	Mr. and Mrs. Hollander
Mrs. E. Grey	His Lordship the Bishop of Barbados and Mrs. Swaby	Misses Hollander (4)
Mr. W. H. Hesketh	Mr. and Mrs. C. Ree Davies	Hon. and Mrs. C. J. Summons
Mr. and Mrs. C. Ree Davies	Miss M. I. Richards	Dr. and Mrs. J. E. M. Nurse
Mrs. Mackintosh	Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Baverstock	Miss E. Nurse
Mrs. J. da Costa	Miss N. M. Baverstock	Mr. and Mrs. D. C. J. da Costa
Miss D. Gardiner	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wales	
Miss A. C. Arthur		
Miss E. Perkins		

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Magdalena, (Captain G. E. McKenzie), Jan 27th:—

Mr. F. G. Rose	Miss M. M. A. Boudard
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ADVANCE BOOKING FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Danube, (Captain W. Barrett), Feb 10th:—

Mr. & Mrs. N. Farrar	Miss J. Farrar	Mr. J. K. Bell
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VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. A. K. Ajar	Mr. M. A. French, J.P.	Mr. G. Raitlon
Mr. A. F. Anderson	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. G. Auchinleck	Mr. John T. Greg	His Honour Mr. Justice P. M. C. Sheriff
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart	Mr. Wm. Smith
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke	Mr. A. S. Kenahan	Mr. J. D. Wall
Mr. A. Campbell	Mr. A. H. Kirby	and
Lt. Col. W. B. Davidson-Houston	Mr. J. F. Loader	Mr. T. E. Ward
Mr. F. E. Everington	Mr. C. H. McLean	
Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. C. W. Prest	
Mr. G. Carew, "Greylands," Ashburton, Devon.		
Rev. F. H. Hammond, 10, Chapel Street, Warwick.		
Mr. N. Scott Johnson, 26, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.		
Sir Frederic M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.		
Major O. H. E. Marescaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.		
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.		
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.		
Mr. Johan G. Rust, o/o Messrs. Previte & Co., 2, Crosby Square, E.C.		

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Magdalena, (Commander G. A. Mackenzie), Falmouth, Jan. 6th:—

Lt. Colonel and Mrs. Davidson-Houston	Mr. R. G. McLaren	Mr. J. Henderson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Darrell Wall	Mr. J. McArthur	Mr. J. Holiday
Mr. W. Anderson	Mr. A. Mitchell	Mr. G. L. Harrett
Mr. A. Binnie	Mr. J. Morris	Mr. G. Herelle
Mr. W. Bayne	Miss O'Farrell	Mr. C. E. Hill
Dr. & Mrs. J. Campbell	Mr. S. Parsons	Mr. W. Jennings
Mr. W. Carruthers	Mr. H. Pike	Mr. F. A. Spencer
Mr. J. da Cunha	Mr. J. O. Shaw	Mr. J. Slater
Mr. C. Condon	Mr. K. Fell	Mr. G. Sandison
Mr. & Mrs. D. Caves	Mr. M. Fuentes	Mr. F. Sims
Mr. C. Doherty	Mr. E. Freeman	Mr. N. Talli
Mr. E. Davies	Mr. J. Gregson	Mr. R. Thomson
Mr. W. Kennard	Mr. N. Goodfoure	Mrs. Thomson
Loeu. E. Lucie-Smith	Miss J. Gaskin	Misses Thomson (2)
Mr. F. Lye	Mrs. Hooper	Mr. D. Taylor
Mr. W. Lane	Mr. D. Hall	Mr. S. Varler
Mr. J. Lloyd	Mr. M. Hoggan	Mr. J. Walker
	Mr. G. Houston	
	Mr. J. Hutchinson	

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

British Guiana.		St. Vincent.	
Jan. 1 to Dec. 17, 1914		Jan. 1 to Oct. 10, 1914	
Sugar ...	90,333 76,462 Tons.		
Molasses ...	831 1,171 Puns.		
Rum ...	2,950,329 2,846,196		
Molascuit, Ac... ..	2,169 6,683 Tons.		
Cocoa ...	41,937 51,790 lbs.		
Coffee ...	238,767 82,373		
Coco-nuts ...	1,894,971 714,915 No.		
Oranges ...		1914	1913
Bananas ...		Arrwrt 3,362,938	4,013,155 lbs.
Cotton ...		Cacao 187,014	177,268 ..
Pimento ...		Cotton 530,666	476,695 ..
Ginger ...		.. Seed 798,028	1,105,864 ..
Honey ...			
Dye-woods ...			
Gold ...	61,155 75,659 ozs.		
Diamonds ...	9,482 7,217 Carats.		
Rice ...	14,395,543 15,821,878 lbs.		
Balata ...	950,929 1,172,501 ..		
Rubber ...	1,107 566 ..		
Timber ...	211,565 417,612 cubic ft.		
Lumber ...	249,441 507,719 feet		
Lime (hydrate of) ...	11,091 2,910 lbs.		

Trinidad.

Jan. 1 to Dec. 22, 1914		Jan. 1 to Nov. 13, 1913	
Sugar ...	46,861 31,527 Tons.	35,113	11,124 Tons.
Molasses ...	3,433 3,419 Puns.	102,633	79,233 Puns.
Rum ...	1,428 922		
Coco-nuts ...	14,381,625 15,286,918 No.		
Asphalt ...	121,419 205,030 Tons.		
Manjak ...	266 517 ..		
Bitters ...	15,442 19,986 Cases.		
Coffee ...	16,240 1,680 lbs.		
Crude Petrol ...	12,085,768 12,934,828 Galls.		
Cacao ...	62,864,800 46,986,400 lbs.	1,706,580	1,402,350 lbs.
Cotton ...		..	..
.. Seed ...		..	..
.. Copra ...	12,865	6,070 Bags.	
Spice ...		368,575	328,715 lbs.
Kola ...		1,290	2,430 ..

Grenada.

Oct. 1 to Dec. 22, 1913/14

1913/14 1912/13

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.



**BANK RATE**—The Bank Rate remains at 5 per cent. Consols are quoted at 63½. The London Stock Exchange reopened on January 4th, after having been closed since August 1st. Stringent regulations are being enforced to prevent enemy shareholders unloading their stocks on the market. All transactions are for cash and the precautionary measures which have been adopted have resulted in a feeling of confidence which is reflected by a rise in most stocks and shares above the minimum figures officially fixed for them. The war loan is quoted at 9/16 discount.

**SUGAR**—The New York market was quiet at the beginning of the fortnight, but owing to the difficulties in connection with starting the Cuban crop on account of the rains, prices strengthened and advanced for duty paid Cubans, from 4.01c. to 4.11c. on the 9th, muscovados being quoted at 3.66c. at the latter date. An interesting feature in recent operations has been the buying of non-preferential sugar by the American refiners to meet the export demand for granulated, the full duty being refunded on export. As the refiners in these instances have not given the full Cuban price, the profit from these transactions is greater than meets the eye.

Large shipments of Government sugar continue to arrive in this country, among which, it may be noted, there is a considerable quantity of Dutch cubes, our refiners being quite unable to cope with the public demand for refined sugar. It will be interesting to know what steps the Government is taking to secure that this sugar has not been displaced by German sugar in Holland. At the same time the Dutch confectioners are anxiously enquiring for outside sugar a striking illustration of the high prices being paid by the British Government. At auction in London on the 5th a fairly large supply of about 1,000 tons West Indian sugar was nearly all disposed of at an advance of from 5d. to 6d. per cwt. The sales included 5,899 bags crystallised Demerara at 26s. to 28s. 3d., and 698 bags Trinidad at 26s. to 28s., and 720 bags Surinam at 26s. 3d. to 27s. 3d.; 1,186 bags of Demerara syrups were also sold at 11s. 9d. to 17s. 9d., and 1,944 bags Trinidad syrup partially sold at 13s. 9d. On the 8th, the market weakened considerably, and of the 539 tons offered, only a portion sold at an average decline of from 3d. to 6d. per cwt. including crystallised Surinam at 26s. 3d. to 26s. 9d.; crystallised Demerara at 26s. to 28s., one lot reaching 28s. 6d., and Demerara syrups at 12s. 3d.

The imports of West Indian sugars between the 1st and 8th of January as compared with previous years are as follows:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Imports ...	1,730	806	1,309	206	67	Tons
Deliveries ...	483	362	375	591	925	"
Stock ...	7,256	13,050	2,773	4,105	3,499	"

No alteration in the Government rates has taken place during the fortnight Dutch cubes sugar being quoted at 30s. 6d. to 31s.; American granulated at 27s. 9d., and White Javas at 26s. 6d.

**RUM** The stocks in London on January 2nd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica ...	6,504	6,459	7,268	8,692	8,915	Puns
Demerara ...	5,344	6,826	5,638	5,487	6,882	"
Total, all kinds	17,684	20,626	21,178	22,636	24,417	"

A strong demand prevails for all proof descriptions with a further advance in Demerara and St. Lucia, the former being now quoted at 1s. 9½d. proof. Business is, however, somewhat hampered by the slow delivery of samples. There has been no change in Jamaica, further supplies not being yet to hand.

**CACAO**—No sales have taken place during the fortnight. The stocks in London on January 2nd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Trinidad ...	5,220	8,919	3,695	3,784	6,613	Bags.
Grenada ...	3,804	4,497	1,695	8,162	11,026	"
Total, all kinds	47,377	72,238	68,012	97,811	89,441	"

The prohibition by the Government of the export of cocoa from the United Kingdom to Continental countries other than Russia, Belgium, France, Spain, and Portugal has caused much agitation in cacao circles. It is not certain whether cacao as well as the manufactured article is prohibited, but this is probably the case. Whether the prohibition will be a lengthy one is not known; but at present it bids fair to nip the prospect of London taking the place of Hamburg as a distributing centre. A meeting of the cacao trade is to be held at the London Chamber of Commerce to decide what collective representations (if any) should be made to H.M. Government in the interest of the cacao trade generally.

**COFFEE**—No public sales to report; market remains steady, although prices are a little lower for West Indian grades.

**COTTON**—Since December 12 only 50 bales of West Indian Sea Island have been sold, chiefly fine Nevis at 1½d. and 1½d., and a few Montserrat at 1½d., all new crop.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Fresh Limes The oranges, grape-fruit and limes being presented to the hospitals receiving wounded soldiers and sailors by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the Dominica Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Trinidad Oranges and Limes Committee is helping incidentally to call attention to the merits of West Indian citrus fruits. Limes continue in steady but rather slow demand. The importance of developing the trade should continue to be kept in mind, for when the lime juice recedes it will prove a valuable additional outlet for the fruit which is being increasingly cultivated throughout the tropics. Meanwhile it is of interest to note that there is likely to be a marked falling off in the demand for lemons in Russia, which is a large consumer, in consequence of the war. **Lime Juice**—(Raw)—The Market is quiet with small sales of Jamaica at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d. **Essential Oil** (distilled) Lower. Sellers at 2s. 9d., but no business to report. **Oil of Limes** (hand pressed)—Nominally worth 7s. to 7s. 3d. per lb., but there are no enquirers. **Concentrated**—Lower. Some business has been done at £26.

**NUTMEGS**—100's/80's, 120's/100's, 140's/120's, no quotations. **MACE** Market quiet, quotations unchanged.

**COPRA** Market very firm. Fair merchantable West Indian quoted at £25 to £25 5s.

**ARROWROOT** Sales about 100 barrels at 2½d. to 4d. General quotations 1½d. to 4½d.

**RUBBER**—Fine plantation 2s. 1½d.; smoked sheet 2s. 3½d.; fine hard Para 2s. 9½d.; do. soft 2s. 7½d.; Castillo sheet, 1s. 9½d.; Castillo scrap 1s. 4d. The announcement made by Sir Edward Grey that exports to the United States might be resumed where an undertaking was given that the rubber would not be re-shipped in any form to enemy countries has naturally caused much satisfaction.

**BALATA**—Sheet quoted at 2s. 1d. landed, block at 1s. 10½d.

**MAHOGANY** In the absence of public sales business has been limited, Jamaica being quoted at 4d. to 5d.

**CEDAR**—Trinidad, 3d. to 4d.

**SATINWOOD**—Jamaica £4 to £8.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—The quotation for American is 7½d.; Water White 8½d.

The Editor will always be glad to consider suggestions from readers for making this page more complete, or to add quotations of any produce which are likely to be of general interest.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 15, SERTHING LANE  
6612 CENTRAL. LONDON, E.C.,  
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON. January 25th, 1915.

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

**T**HE list of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving in His Majesty's forces, the fifth instalment of which appears in the present issue, is assuming notable dimensions. But there are still many names to be added, and in order that the list may be complete and accurate we trust that our readers will continue to call attention to any additions and corrections which should be made. It is proposed eventually to publish the list in a pamphlet, in which full details of the many handsome gifts made by the people of the West Indies and individuals resident in those colonies to the mother country and the various relief funds will also be published. To enable us to compile these accurately we trust that the authorities will inform us from time to time as to gifts already forwarded, and remittances actually made, so that we can keep pace with what is being done. The proposed pamphlet will form a valuable record of the part that the West Indies are playing in the war, and will furnish a proof that our oldest group of colonies have not been slower than the newer-born Dominions in supporting the mother country in her day of stress.

### THE "DUTCH STANDARD."

**I**N our issue of the 15th December last we drew attention to the serious position arising from the 16 Dutch Standard issued in October last year to the Canadian Customs Authorities being darker than that previously in use. The effect of this has been that certain West Indian sugars hitherto sent to Canada for direct consumption, and entered under 16 D.S., have become liable to the higher scale of duty payable by sugars showing a colour above this standard. Since then we have obtained through the Foreign Office a memorandum from the British Vice-Consul in Amsterdam, who states that no complaints have been made by Dutch firms as to the Standard, and suggests that the variation in colour may have arisen from the different kind of colour used in making the Standards. The Standards are prepared yearly by the Netherlands Trading Society, this being necessary on account of their depreciation on keeping. They are no longer official, as the assessment of duty by means of the Dutch Standard has ceased in Holland for some years. Comparison, however, between 1913 and 1914 Standards now in London shows a distinct difference in the relative colours of the two years, and as matters now stand, it looks very much as if this variation of the Standard from year to year is at the bottom of the trouble. This fact emphasizes still more the abuses liable to arise from this archaic method of classification for duty purposes. At the present moment a promising industry in the West Indies—the manufacture of good, wholesome sugars for direct consumption in Canada—is threatened with extinction. No doubt, when Canada arranged its sugar tariff, it took that of the United States as its model. With the abolition of the special protection for refiners, the Dutch Standard disappeared from the United States Tariff, and it is evidently time that it did so from the Canadian Tariff. Indeed, apart from any other consideration, it is manifestly the wrong thing to continue the employment of a Standard which is not only susceptible to yearly variation, but is also at the discretion of the trading community of another and a foreign country.

### THE CACAO PROHIBITION.

**S**INCE we last went to press there have been no further developments of importance with regard to the prohibition of the export of cacao from the United Kingdom. As we have already pointed out, British West Africa is the chief sufferer from the embargo, which also militates against the prospect of London becoming once more the chief

cacao mart of the Old World. The West Indies are better situated, having still the American market to which the bulk of their production has always gone. Meanwhile a Committee of all interested in the cacao trade has met under the auspices of the London Chamber of Commerce, and a deputation nominated by it has waited on the President of the Board of Trade. The case of the merchants, brokers, and producers, as already outlined in these columns, was laid before the President of the Board of Trade, who, however, held out no hope of immediate removal of the embargo. He informed the deputation, however, that no objection would be made to shipments of cacao to Russia via Scandinavia, for which crumb of comfort they were thankful. He also indicated that he would be prepared to consider any proposals which might be made for ensuring that cacao would not find its way into enemy countries in the event of the prohibition being removed.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

A meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on Thursday, January 14th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members present were, Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy Chairman, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. A. Griffin attended by invitation.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Campbell referred to the death of Mr. Henry Hales, formerly a member of the Executive, and moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously :—

Resolved, that the Executive of the West India Committee have learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. Henry Hales, for many years a member of their body, and that the Secretary be instructed to convey to the family the expression of their sympathy in the loss which they have sustained.

The resignations of 23 members at the close of 1914 were accepted, and the Secretary reported the deaths of six members since the preceding meeting. The following were then elected members of the West India Committee :—

Names.	Proposers and Secondors.
Mr. Walter T. Hawkes,	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Miss Dora Helen A. Austin,	{ Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.
Mrs. Lucie Horne, (Barbados)	{ Mr. W. Burslem.
Dr. Clarence A. Yearwood, (Barbados)	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Gerald C. Mahon, (Barbados)	{ Mr. Charles H. Hewitt.
Dr. E. H. Bannister, (Barbados)	{ Mr. Julian Mahon.
	{ Mr. J. L. Murray.
	{ Mr. Julian Mahon.
	{ Mr. J. L. Murray.
	{ Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
	{ Mr. J. L. Murray.

Names.	Proposers and Secondors.
Mr. Henry S. Fuller,	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. James K. Morrison	{ Mr. G. R. Alston.
Miss E. Robinson, (Barbados)	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. William Hart,	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mrs. Lee,	{ Mrs. T. W. Wilkinson.
Mr. Archibald E. J. Lee	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Nobel's Explosives Company, Ltd.	{ Mr. F. Henry Norton.
Mr. Pedro L. Prada,	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell.
	{ Mr. H. D. Spooner.
	{ Mr. G. R. Alston.
	{ Mr. H. D. Spooner.
	{ Mr. G. R. Alston.
	{ Mr. Murray T. Gow.
	{ Mr. G. W. Prentice.
	{ Mr. G. R. Alston.
	{ Mr. Edgar Tripp.

Correspondence with the Colonial Office regarding the cancellation by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company of one of the sailings under the West India Mail contract, and the modification in the time-table, was confirmed.

Mr. Griffin raised the question of the delivery of the cargo ex R.M.S. *Magdalena* at Newport, Mon. After discussion the Secretary was instructed to convene a meeting of consignees to consider the matter.

Correspondence with the Foreign Office respecting the Dutch Colour Standard was approved.

Mr. G. R. Alston reviewed the situation resulting from the prohibition of the export of cacao, and reported that, at a meeting of those interested in the cacao trade at the London Chamber of Commerce on the preceding day, a committee had been appointed to report on the subject. Meanwhile it appeared that West Africa would be the chief sufferer, as long as British West Indian cacao continued to find a market in the United States.

A discussion took place regarding East Indian immigration. It was decided to write to the Colonial Office and India Office and to point out that the Committee, while recognising the necessity for the temporary suspension of immigration caused by the outbreak of war, were of opinion that the continuance of the introduction of East Indian Agricultural labourers was essential to the welfare of the sugar industry in British Guiana and Trinidad, and the cacao industry in the latter colony, and to express the hope that East Indian immigration might be resumed with the least possible delay.

A letter dated January 13th, from Mr. Rowstone was read calling attention to the fact that H.M. Customs would require the following clause on all Certificates of Origin for future shipments of sugar :

"I do further declare that this sugar has been produced from cane grown in ..... and that it has not been made or produced by an enemy, or in an enemy country or made or produced from cane grown by an enemy or in an enemy country."

The Secretary was instructed to thank Mr. Rowstone for this information, and to give it full publicity in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

**Cargo ex "Magdalena."**

A meeting of consignees receiving shipments ex *Magdalena*, which reached Newport, Mon., on January 6th, was held at the West India Committee Rooms on Wednesday January 20. Mr. R. Rutherford presided, and representatives of the following firms attended: Messrs. Thomson, Hankey and Co., Messrs. R. A. de Pass and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Benckendorff, Berger and Co., Messrs. Gillespie Bros. and Co., Messrs. Alston, Arbutnot and Co., Messrs. Scrutton, Sons and Co., Messrs. Delbanco and Co., Messrs. Frame and Co., Messrs. Hall and Hall, Messrs. Rosing Bros. and Co., Messrs. Claud Neilson and Co., Messrs. Lewis and Peat, Messrs. G. Henderson and Co., Messrs. Ross and Norton, and the British Cotton Growing Association. A discussion took place regarding the situation arising out of delivery of cargo at Newport, Mon. It was decided to take joint action in the matter.

The following correspondence subsequently passed between the West India Committee, on behalf of the consignees, and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on the subject:—

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO THE R.M.S.P. COMPANY,  
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.  
21st January, 1915.

Dear Sir,

*Cargo ex S.S. "Magdalena."*

A meeting of the consignees of this steamer was held yesterday under the auspices of my Committee at this Office.

1. I am directed by those present to enter an emphatic protest against the course which you have taken in landing the cargo at Newport, and bringing same on to London at an additional charge for rail, which you require the consignees to pay as a condition of delivering their goods.

2. They will only pay this charge under protest, and while it is understood that you rely upon the special War Clause stamped upon the Bills of Lading as justifying your action, they and my Committee are advised that that clause has no such effect.

3. I am to ask you whether you will be prepared to refund the amounts which may have been or will be so paid under protest, failing which they desire to test the question in the Courts.

I am, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Messrs. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.,

THE R.M.S.P. COMPANY TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company,  
18, Moorgate Street, London E.C.  
23rd January, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant acquainting me that a meeting of consignees of cargo per S.S. *Magdalena* had been held under the auspices of your Committee and that you were asked to protest against this vessel's cargo having been landed at Newport and against consignees being required to pay the railway carriage from Newport to London.

Had this Company been favoured with an invitation to the meeting in question it would have afforded them an

opportunity of explaining the position which is perhaps not fully understood.

In regard to the first point to which exception was taken, viz., the discharge of the steamer at Newport, this Company had no alternative but to discharge at that Port because no berth for discharging this steamer could be obtained in London in reasonable time. To discharge at Newport suited us no better than the consignees and consulting our own interests we would have very much preferred to discharge the ship at London. The Gentlemen who have conferred with you are doubtless aware that the Port of London is at the present time suffering from congestion but they may not be fully acquainted with the extent of the difficulties with which the shipowner has to contend, arising from lack of berthing and dry-docking accommodation as well as scarcity of labour and other causes.

As regards the other point raised in your letter, viz., whether the consignees are to pay the cost of railway carriage from Newport to London, no payments have been collected by us for such conveyance, and I have much pleasure in stating that we have decided to ourselves bear this expense at all events on this occasion, although it means in some cases that the steamer gets no freight for carrying goods, the cost of carriage from Newport to point of delivery in London absorbing the Atlantic freight.

It will, of course, be understood that while the Company takes the course mentioned on the present occasion it is not to be considered as an undertaking to continue carrying cargo on an unremunerative basis and that while we remain shut out of our home port of Southampton and are debarred by the state of war from obtaining reasonable corresponding facilities elsewhere, freight arrangements will have to be modified so as to provide the Atlantic steamers with reasonable compensation for the service rendered. We anticipate that consignees generally will readily assent to such modification, and indeed the principle has already received the concurrence of some of the consignees whom we have had the opportunity to consult.

I may mention that it is hoped to discharge the next homeward mail steamer in London. Whether the following vessels will also so discharge or where they will discharge it is impossible to say owing to the condition of the ports of the United Kingdom, but in our own interests equally with those of the consignees, we prefer London discharge provided the circumstances of war permit access to that Port and we can get the necessary accommodation.

I am, etc.,

A. W. BENNETT,

Secretary.

The Secretary,  
West India Committee,

**Particulars as to Membership.**

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. of \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.



### Statistics of Membership.

Jamaica heads the list of colonies giving new members to the West India Committee in 1914 with 9 to her credit, Grenada coming next with 5, and British Guiana and Trinidad bracketed third with 4 each. During the year 81 members were admitted, drawn from the following places:—

Jamaica	...	9	St. Lucia	...	1
Grenada	...	5	St. Vincent	...	1
British Guiana	...	4	Turks and Caicos Is.	...	1
Trinidad	...	4	Bermuda	...	1
Dominica	...	1	Mauritius	...	1
Antigua	...	2	New South Wales	...	1
British Honduras	...	2	Country	...	20
Canada	...	2	London	...	18
Barbados	...	2	New York	...	2
Nevis	...	1	Peru	...	1

At the first election in the current year fourteen members were admitted, residing in the following places:—

Barbados	...	5	Country	...	2
London	...	7			

### Passports for Members

The Secretary of the West India Committee, being a Barrister-at-Law, is entitled to, and will be glad to, verify the necessary declarations by members of the Committee who are applicants for passports.

THE Government's scheme for establishing an aniline dye industry in England has failed to materialise, their offer of a guarantee of a debenture issue of a company to manufacture dyes having proved insufficient to tempt capitalists in the Midlands to embark on such a venture. What is needed is a guarantee that the new industry shall not be at the mercy of our present enemies after the war—or, to put it briefly, preference. This is beginning to dawn upon Manchester, whose politicians will perhaps eventually realise that "sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." A preference on Colonial cane sugar, which would help our colonies and also render consumers in this country less dependent on Continental beet, is also an urgent need. The war will bring many changes in its wake.

ARGYLLSHIRE is justifiably proud of Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, owner of Knockalva, Montego Bay, Jamaica, and his family. Colonel Malcolm, who is himself a Crimean veteran, has five sons serving their King and Country at the present juncture. Lieut. Colonel Ian Malcolm, M.P., his eldest son, is working for the Red Cross Society. Colonel Neill Malcolm is on the Headquarter Staff of the First Army Corps at the Front. Captain Harold Malcolm is in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Dunoon. Captain Maurice Malcolm is commanding Armoured Scouts in Jamaica, and Captain Alastair Malcolm is in the Highland Light Infantry at Portsmouth. Two of his sons-in-law, Captain A. S. Bonham-Carter, and Captain Barnes are also in the Army, the former being in the 60th Rifles and the latter in the R.A.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### The Trans-Caucasian Victories.

The Turks, unable to rally after the destruction of the 9th Army Corps, and the rout of the 10th at Sarikamysch, have been utterly defeated at Kara Urgan, where the 11th Army Corps, retreating from Ardagan was engaged. The fighting lasted three days in a blizzard, in which the sufferings of the ill-clad and ill-fed Turks, used to a warm climate, must have been frightful. They were relentlessly pursued by the hardy Siberian and Caucasian Russians towards Erzerum, losing thousands of their number in prisoners, at one time a whole regiment, and an enormous amount of materiel. Thousands more were frozen to death, through missing the narrow paths of the "frosty Caucasus" in the blinding snow, and those able to continue the flight flung artillery and stores down precipices as they went. If the Russians take Erzerum, though they have not, so far, been fortunate in fighting against entrenched positions, they will complete the destruction of the Turkish Army in Armenia. In any case, the blow to Turkey's military power and German prestige is a heavy one. Enver Bey will not return to Constantinople the conquering hero of his dreams, neither will he be able to concentrate the Mesopotamian Armies, which, having taken the easy road to Persia, by way of Tabriz, are too far distant to retrieve the situation at Erzerum. The German taskmaster, in order to lighten the Russian pressure on the Eastern front has forced Turkey to waste her strength in military adventures from the frozen fastnesses of the Caucasus to the deserts of Sinai, just as she has lured Austria-Hungary to defeat by dividing her forces in a simultaneous attack on Russia and Serbia.

### The Resignation of Count Berchtold.

This nobleman, popularly regarded as the originator of the war, was little more than a tool of statesmen and diplomatists trained in the bad school of Metternich. He accepted the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs in order to serve the aged Emperor, to whom he is devoted. His successor is Baron de Burian, a Magyar, who cannot speak his native tongue. He is said to be stronger in character than Count Berchtold, but it would be a mistake to suppose that the change marks a departure in the policy of the Dual Monarchy. Hungarians in the service of the Emperor do not often represent the Hungarian people.

### The "Dacia."

This ship of the Hamburg-America Line has been tied up in an American port for months past in fear of capture by a British cruiser. She has been bought by a citizen of the United States, but of German parentage, for half her real value. He purposes sending her to Hamburg or Rotterdam with a cargo of cotton; wherever she goes her ultimate destination



**SEEING OFF THE VOLUNTEERS.**

Part of the crowd on the Wharf when Kitchener's Recruits sailed from Port of Spain, Trinidad



**THE BARBADOS MOTOR AMBULANCE.**

Presented to the Red Cross Society by the People of Barbados at the instance of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore.

being Germany. The transaction raises not only a whole crop of international questions, but the right of British sea-power to force the enemy into military surrender by economic pressure. It is due to intrigue in Germany's interest, since if the *Dacia* can thus be transferred there is nothing to prevent the sale of all German vessels in neutral ports. The situation would, then, be that the Central Powers could obtain supplies of food and raw material wherewith to prolong the war in spite of the British Navy. That the American Government is placed in an awkward position by the *Margaret*, the new name for the *Dacia*, is evident from the fact that, while one Department of State permits her registry, another refuses her insurance under a Bill designed to encourage the American Mercantile Marine, should the war create opportunities for national enterprise on the sea.

The voyage of the *Dacia* will be historic.

### The War and the Dominions.

The Union Forces, commanded by General Botha have captured Swakopmund, the railway centre in German South-West Africa: the only other port of importance in the Colony, Luderitz Bay, having been occupied by the British since last August. As to the east and south deserts extend to the frontier of South Africa, evidently the procedure is to be that so successfully employed in Togoland and the Cameroons, to seize the coast and work inland. After considerable fighting, Schuit's Drift—the base of Maritz and his rebel commando in raiding Cape Colony—together with Raman's Drift, are now in possession of the Union Forces. They, therefore, command the Orange River Line. That extensive preparations have been made for defence by the Germans is a matter of common knowledge, but their power of resistance, cut off from the sea, has yet to be tested.

In the South African War the arrival of India's Contingent saved Natal from being overrun by the Boers, and, in China, her splendid Expeditionary Force enabled England to take a place in the relief of the Legations worthy of the Empire. In the present conflict, the Viceroy states, her troops are fighting side by side with the British in five theatres of war—France, Egypt, East Africa, the Persian Gulf, and China, in addition to taking the entire responsibility for the defence of the Peninsula. In all she has despatched, or is despatching, 200,000 men.

A third Canadian Contingent is now being enlisted, and will be sent to Europe to complete their training after they have gone through a preliminary course at home. Every care is being taken to ensure that it shall consist of picked men.

### In Flanders and France.

Sand storms in Belgium, storms of wind and rain with consequent floods on the Aisne, snow in the Vosges, and mud everywhere, are recorded in the Western theatre of the War. The first Canadian

regiment to arrive at the front is reported to have received its baptism of fire in a trench knee deep in mud, so that sitting or lying down was impossible. In some parts, indeed, the battle line is little better than a morass, out of which the water has to be pumped. In spite of these adverse conditions steady progress is being made towards Ostend. At Soissons to the west of Rheims, the French failed to advance their line to the plateau held by the enemy since September. They captured the heights, but were not able to maintain their position since, owing to floods on the Aisne, the temporary bridges were carried away, and reinforcement was out of the question. The Germans, on the other hand, with the railways, whose mobility they have increased by strategic lines, in their rear, were able to bring up large forces. Nevertheless they have not dislodged the French from the high ground they still hold on the right bank of the Aisne near Soissons. That the Germans were unable to follow up their local success may be doubted. It will not be here they will endeavour to pierce the Allied line.

East of Rheims, Perthes has been taken by the French. They are, therefore, within five miles of the railway, which connects the German lines of communication between Rheims and the Argonne. In Alsace, as was expected, the enemy has brought up large reinforcements. Consequently, they have recaptured Burnhaupt-le-Haut, though with heavy losses, and have gained ground near Cernay. Bu<sup>t</sup> Steinbach is still in possession of the French.

### In the Eastern Theatre.

Armies do not go into winter quarters as they used to do, but the wintry weather, together with the Polish mud, are seriously hampering operations on this front as in the West. Fighting has taken the siege form so familiar in France and Flanders, with this difference, that Marshal von Hindenburg finds that his line is gradually lengthening whereas General von Klueck's is pretty much what it was months ago. Virtually all the passes in the Carpathians are now in the hands of the Russians, who thus dominate all the Hungarian valleys from the Ung southwards, and the Transylvanian plains. Again the German line in the East does not rest on the sea at one end and on a neutral frontier at the other; it may be turned. That is why the news that the Russians are making perceptible progress to the south of the Masurian Lakes is so significant. In North Poland they have advanced as far as the line of the Skrawa, 35 miles from the Prussian frontier at Thorn, seizing the fords in spite of the weather. Evidently, then, they have been making a combined movement for weeks past, which, if it continues in force, must influence the enemy's position in East Prussia, and in Poland south of the Vistula. The Germans are no nearer Warsaw than they were months ago. Napoleon in three months reached the capital and heart of Russia, 1,000 miles from the frontier, the Germans in six months are not more than 100 miles in Russian territory and in

possession of Lodz, a German-Jewish town twenty years old, and of no political or strategic importance. The contrast is not flattering to the great General Staff in Berlin.

#### The Balkans.

It used to be a saying that war would break out in the Balkans in the spring when the snows melt, and the prophecy is being revived as Rumania's preparations for war extend. This is mainly due to Russia's advance in Bukovina on the frontier of Transylvania. Both Provinces are mainly Rumanian in character and race. In religion they are members of the Orthodox Church. They are, therefore, antipathetic both to Austrians and Hungarians, and would like to be included in a greater Rumania. Already large bodies of refugees are passing over the border in anticipation of war. As something like an *entente* has been concluded between Rumania and Bulgaria the bitterness left by the second Balkan War is at an end.

#### The Zeppelin Raid.

Taking advantage of the first calm weather we have had for some time, Zeppelins, accompanied by aeroplanes, on the night of the 19th, raided the East Coast. One of their objectives seems to have been Sandringham, where the King and Queen have been in residence. As their Majesties had left for London in the morning, and the German bombs were dropped a mile distant from the estate, the military value of the airship is as doubtful as ever. At Yarmouth and King's Lynn damage was done to buildings and four civilians were killed. In the German accounts these places are described as "fortified," one of those deliberate mis-statements with which Germany has rendered us familiar. It should be noted that the Zeppelins made no attempt to attack the British Fleet. It is so much easier to raid undefended towns. The only occasion on which the aircraft, which were to frighten the English people into surrender, attacked warships was in the British raid on Cuxhaven, when they were beaten off by gun-fire.

#### War at Sea and in the Air.

On the 17th, 16 German aeroplanes were sighted in the Channel, but their flight was cut short by the weather. On their return home some of them made a detour, and dropped about 30 bombs on Dunkirk, killing six persons, of whom five were civilians. Near Amiens, at the same time, a remarkable duel took place between French and German aircraft. When a French pilot was about 15 yards from a Taube he ranged his machine alongside, and his observer took careful aim with his rifle. As the German observer turned round four shots were fired at regular intervals, the first striking him full in the heart. He was the son of General von Falkenhayn, who succeeded Count von Moltke as Chief of the General Staff. The second shot smashed the German pilot's arm, the third penetrated his neck, while the fourth damaged the radiator of the

machine, which, thereupon, descended in the French lines simultaneously with the French aeroplane. A striking scene was then witnessed. The two pilots advanced slowly towards each other, the German holding out his maimed hand. "In spite of the result of the fight, monsieur, I am proud to have had one so brave as you for my adversary."

#### Running Fight in the North Sea.

Admiral Sir D. Beatty has another success to his credit. On Sunday the 24th a British squadron of battle cruisers, with their attendant ships sighted a German squadron of nearly equal strength, which, it may be supposed was on its way to attempt another raid on the English coast. It was at once pursued, and, as its object was not to fight, but to get away, the engagement, which lasted about four hours, was a running one. As usual the Germans gave as good an account of themselves as the circumstances permitted. But before they could reach the area where submarines and mines prevented further pursuit by the British squadron, the *Blucher*, an armoured cruiser, was sunk, and two other ships were damaged. Germany has now lost five armoured cruisers, and has only four left. She is now learning that the "wearing-down process" is a game that two can play at.

(To be continued).

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below.

- Austin, Captain Arthur H. P., son of the late Mr. W. G. G. Austin, H.M. Inspector of Schools, British Guiana), 13th Battalion Durham Light Infantry.
- Austin, Lieutenant Edward Murray, (son of the late Archdeacon Francis Austin, of Demerara, and of Mrs. Austin, of Caversham), South Africa Mounted Rifles.
- Austin, Private W. Piercy, (son of Mr. W. R. P. Austin, Melbourne, Australia, and great-grandson of the late Bishop Austin, of British Guiana), Public Schools Corps, Australian Contingent, Egypt.
- Austin, Wentworth Murray, (son of the late Archdeacon Francis Austin of Demerara, and of Mrs. Austin of Caversham), Hampshire Carabineers.
- Austin, Commander Francis Murray, R.N., (son of the late Archdeacon Francis Austin of Demerara, and Mrs. Austin, of Caversham), H.M.S. *Emperor of India*.
- Blunt, Major Edward Grant (Ed Lewa Blunt Pasha) (grandson of the late Mr. Conrad Pile, of Barbados) Director General of Supplies for the Egyptian Army.
- Blunt, Captain William Senhouse (grandson of the late Mr. Conrad Pile, of Barbados) Royal Engineers. Attached to the Military Works Department of the Egyptian Army.
- Bowring, 2nd Lieut. W., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Bowen, Captain C. P., Reserve Force, the Barbados Local Forces.

- Bowen, Lieut. F. C. H., Medical Officer, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Bowen, Lieut. E. F. S., Engineer Officer, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Bryan, Major Herbert C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary of Jamaica). The Manchester Regiment. Has returned to England to rejoin the Army.
- Burdon, Major the Hon. J. A., C.M.G., Second in Command the Barbados Volunteers.
- Cameron, Ryan Stuart, (eldest son of His Excellency the Hon. Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, and late Administrator of St. Lucia. Born in Turks' Islands), with the Canadian Contingent.
- Cameron, Guy Fremantle, (son of His Excellency the Hon. Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, and late Administrator of St. Lucia, Born in Turks' Islands). Commission in 79th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.
- Cameron, 2nd Lieut. Francis Blake, (youngest son of His Excellency the Hon. Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, and late Administrator of St. Lucia, Born in Turks' Islands), Canadian Contingent.
- Carrington, Commander John Walsh, R.N., (son of the late Sir John Worrell Carrington, and nephew of Mrs. Gittens), Navigating Commander H.M.S. *Inflexible*.
- Carrington, Lieut. Edward Worrell, (son of the late Sir John Worrell Carrington, and nephew of Mrs. Gittens), Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to 5th Battalion, and Worcestershire Regiment.
- Carter, Lieut. W. H., Cadet Captain, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Cave, Lieut. J. R. M., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Clark, Mr. W. E., Inspector General Barbados Police and Commandant of the Local Forces.
- Clarke, Major the Hon. Sir F. J., K.C.M.G., Officer Commanding the Barbados Volunteers.
- Coxhead, Lieut.-Colonel J. A., R.A., (A.D.C. to General, afterwards Field-Marshal, Sir Henry Wylie Norman, when Governor of Jamaica, 1883-1889).
- Dalrymple-Hay, Brigadier-General J. R. M., C.B., D.S.O., (late Inspector of the West Indian local forces, and Officer Commanding the troops in Jamaica).
- Davidson-Houston, Major J. H., (brother of the Commissioner of Montserrat), Imperial General Staff, War Office.
- Davidson-Houston, Lieut.-Colonel C. E. D., (brother of the Commissioner of Montserrat), Commanding 58th Vaughan's Rifles, Indian Army. *At the Front*.
- Davidson-Houston, Lt.-Colonel W. B., C.M.G., (Commissioner of Montserrat), Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
- Deane, Lieut. P., Reserve Force, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Delanere, Lieut. E. L., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Dodgson, Lieut. Vernon, (son of the late Mr. Gerald Dodgson, and shareholder in Lears Estate, Ltd., Barbados), 15th Middlesex Regiment.
- Dodgson, Lieut. Eric, (son of the late Mr. Gerald Dodgson, and shareholder in Lears Estate, Ltd., Barbados), Seaforth Highlanders.
- Dodgson, Lieut. Kenneth (son of the Rev. F. V. Dodgson, shareholder in Lears Estate, Ltd., Barbados), The Devonshire Regiment.
- Ebbels, Wilfrid, (son of Mr. W. P. Ebbels, of Beauséjour, Mauritius, and grandson of the late Mr. Henry Garnett, of British Guiana), Cadet at Woolwich.
- Evelyn, Lieut. G. B., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Hall, Captain R. R., Officer Commanding Cadets, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Harragin, Lieut. William, (son of Mr. W. C. Harragin, and grandson of the late Archdeacon F. Austin of Demerara). Is in the Straits Settlements, and has been given a Commission.
- Haynes, Lieut. C. A., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Henderson, A. Douglas, (member of the staff of Messrs. J. Hales Caird and Co., West India Merchants, and grandson of the late Mr. J. Hales Caird), London Scottish.
- Herbert, Lieut. P. H., Cadet Captain, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Hinkson, Lieut. E. A., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Howell, Captain J. B., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Hutson, Captain J., Senior Medical Officer, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Innis, Lieut. and Quartermaster, the Barbados Volunteers.
- Jones, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Calvert (younger son of the Rev. R. Michael Jones, part proprietor of Hope and Houston Estates, Demerara). Seconded from the 5th Battery, and 2nd Home Counties Brigade, R.F.A., Territorials, and gazetted A.D.C. to General Caulfield, G.C.O., Western Division.
- Jones, Private Conyers, (son of the late Mr. Salters Jones of the British Guiana Civil Service), 9th Battalion Highland Light Infantry (Glasgow Highlanders). *At the Front*.
- Laborde, Lieut. E. D., Cadet Captain, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Lyall, Sergeant Charles (grandson of Mr. C. F. Lyall, of Barbados) Machine Gun Section, 3rd Division, Canadian Contingent.
- Lyall, Private Richard (grandson of Mr. C. F. Lyall, of Barbados) 3rd Division, Canadian Contingent.
- Martin, Captain A. I. de M., West India Regiment, Staff Officer of the Barbados Local Forces.
- Moore, Captain F. H., (son of Mr. F. H. Moore, of Barbados), 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.
- Murray, Captain W. G., Chaplain, the Barbados Local Forces.
- Ogilvie, Major C. M., (of Kingston, Jamaica) 8th Suffolk Regiment.
- Preston, Major the Hon. R. M. P. (son of the 15th Viscount Gormanston, Governor of British Guiana, 1889-1891), Honourable Artillery Company.
- Reece, Captain H. W., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Reed, Lieut. C. A., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Sadler, Gunner Louis (son of Mr. W. T. Sadler, Sproston, Ltd., Demerara), 4th Battery, 2nd Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.
- Sabey, Driver Andrew J. H., (son of Mr. James J. Sabey, Director of Nathan and Godfrey, Ltd.), Army Service Corps. Attached to the Royal Fusiliers.
- Sellers, Lance-Corporal Sydney George (son of Mr. W. A. Sellers, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 7th Battalion First Canadian Contingent.
- Sellers, Gerald Edward (Born in Barbados, son of Mr. W. A. Sellers, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), Artists Rifle Corps.
- Simmons Anderson, Lieut. H. P., Commanding Mounted Infantry Company, the Barbados Volunteers.
- Simpson, Captain D. G., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Simpson, Private C. L., (son of the late Mr. James Simpson, of Demerara), 24th Division, Victoria Rifles, Montreal.
- Sloan, Lieutenant J. Lennox Lawson, R.N., (nephew of Mr. D. O. Kelly-Lawson, of Hampden Estate, Jamaica), H.M.S. *Cadmus*.
- Thorne, Captain S. C., the Barbados Volunteers.
- Todd, Major Robert B., (late Staff Officer, Local Forces, Trinidad, and Inspector of Police, Barbados, and late West India Regiment), Army Ordnance Department.
- Williams, Private A. M., (son of the late Mr. W. Martin Williams, magistrate, Demerara), 24th London Regiment.
- Wilson, Private George S., (son of the late Mr. John Shine Wilson, of Trinidad) 48th Highlanders.
- Wilson, Trooper Hector (son of the late Mr. George H. Wilson, of Trinidad) Lord Strathcona's Horse.

### Killed in Action.

PAYMASTER ALAN M. AUSTIN, who lost his life in the H.M.S. *Hawke* on October 15th, was the youngest son of the late Archdeacon Francis Austin, of Demerara, and of Mrs. Austin, of 76, Albert Road, Caversham.

MANY officers and engineers of Messrs. Elders and Pyfles "Banana Fleet" are serving with the Royal Navy. Their names and appointments are given below.

Chief Officer R. A. Thorburn (*Chirripo*) Submarine 3-1; Captain C. W. Hake, (*Miami*) Navigating Lieutenant,

Armed Merchant Cruiser; 2nd Officer R. C. Greenhough (*Tortuguero*) Private, Royal Fusiliers; 2nd Officer W. W. Thomas (*Manzanares*) H.M.S. *Halcyon*, Chatham; 3rd Officer J. E. Armstrong (*Motagua*) Midshipman, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Officer S. H. Smiles (*Bayano*) Chatham; 2nd Officer D. A. Jack (*Chagres*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Officer A. W. Legge (*Motagua*) Sub-Lieutenant Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Officer D. R. Cooke (*Barranca*) Captain of Mine Sweeper; 2nd Officer R. Hobson (*Motagua*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Officer G. F. Strickland (*Bayano*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Officer A. C. Edwards (*Chirripo*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Captain A. H. Reade (*Changuinola*) Navigating Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Captain A. D. Riseley (*Patia*) Navigating Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Officer E. A. Brown (*Bayano*) Navigating Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 2nd Officer J. A. Wallis (*Patuca*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Officer J. W. Gallop (*Patuca*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 2nd Officer A. C. Davidson (*Bayano*) Sub-Lieutenant, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Apprentice B. W. Bush (*Patuca*) Private, 6th Gloucesters; Apprentice J. R. I. Brierley (*Chirripo*) Midshipman R.N.R., Armed Merchant Cruiser; Apprentice P. T. Cook (*Zent*) Midshipman R.N.R., Armed Merchant Cruiser; Apprentice H. M. Gough (*Bayano*) Midshipman R.N.R., Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Engineer H. R. Williams (*Bayano*) Chief Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Engineer C. Jones (*Bayano*) Senior Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Engineer E. W. G. Humble (*Manzanares*) Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Engineer C. L. Stewart (*Zent*) Chief Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 2nd Engineer J. M. Rennie (*Chagres*) Senior Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Engineer J. M. Cole (*Pacuare*) Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Engineer C. Roberts (*Tortuguero*) Chief Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Engineer D. J. Parsons (*Motagua*) Senior Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Engineer F. W. Extens (*Bayano*) Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Engineer T. R. Tyler (*Changuinola*) Chief Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Engineer J. Larsen (*Aracataca*) Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; Chief Engineer J. D. Williamson (*Aracataca*) Chief Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 2nd Engineer J. Spence (*Motagua*) Senior Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 3rd Engineer J. F. Slatter (*Chagres*) Engineer, Armed Merchant Cruiser; 5th Engineer L. Freeland (*Changuinola*) Engine Room Artificer, Torpedo Boat; 1st Refrigerating Engineer G. Ellis (*Manzanares*) Warrant Engineer; 7th Engineer C. Dupree (*Patia*) Warrant Engineer; 3rd Engineer W. Rowe (*Changuinola*) Engine Room Artificer.

[Copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, of December 1st, 15th, and 29th, 1914, and January 12th, 1915, in which the first, second, third and fourth lists containing 315, 63, 99, and 22 names respectively were published, are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane. Price 1s. per copy, post free.]

Compiègne has been fixed as the site of Lady Eva Wemyss' hospital which is being organised by Sir Joseph Godfrey, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana.

SIR MAX AITKEN, M.P., who has been appointed official "eye-witness" to accompany the Canadian Contingent has been for some years a member of the West India Committee. His West Indian interest lies in his connection with the electric companies operating in British Guiana and Trinidad, and he is also a Director of the Colonial Bank.

## A BARBADOS AMBULANCE.

### A Gift from Our Ever British Colony.

Shortly after his return to Barbados in November last, after a holiday in this country, Mr. F. A. C. Collymore wrote to the local newspapers inviting subscriptions towards the cost of purchase of a motor ambulance for our wounded soldiers. The response was so prompt that he was able within a very short time to remit to England the sum of £400, and the ambulance has already been bought and is now on the Continent.

The car was purchased on behalf of the subscribers by the West India Committee, who very properly insisted that in every essential it should be of All British manufacture. It is a 40 horse-power 4 cylinder car, and for the benefit of motoring readers it may be stated that the engine is vertical and fitted in the front of the chassis, covered by the usual folding bonnet, and drives direct by arbor shaft on to the rear axles. All parts are extremely easy of access. The foot boards in front of driver's seat are detachable, thus giving direct access to the gear box and clutch. A loose board is also fitted in the interior of the body over the rear axle, to allow easy examination of the worn gear. Steering is by wheel with steering column encased in a stout steel tube. The automatic carburetter feeds the engine, embodying an improvement which greatly reduces the petrol consumption. A lever for operating the advance and retard of the magneto is fixed on the top of the steering column, and on the side of the steering column an additional lever for the carburetter. The change speed and rear brake levers are placed conveniently on the right hand side of the driver's seat, and the vehicle is controlled by three pedals. In the centre is the accelerator pedal controlling the induction of gas. The pedal on left operates the clutch, and the right hand pedal releases clutch and applies the foot brake. The dash board shaped of stout steel plate is curved at top and sides towards driver, and has fitted to it the magneto switch and oil pressure gauge.

The engine is the "Dennis," of the enclosed vertical type with four cylinders cast separately, bore and stroke 126.8 m/m by 130 m/m, developing 40 h.p. at 900 revolutions per minute. The crank shaft is made from nickel steel with ground bearing surfaces. There is a bearing between each cylinder, which is kept well lubricated by oil under pressure from a tank supplying a pump in the crank case containing a forced feed pump gear driven from the cam shaft. Bosch high tension magneto ignition is fitted, and the engine is fed from an automatic carburetter.

A cordial letter of thanks for this gift has been sent to the subscribers in Barbados by the Red Cross Society, who have promised to report from time to time what the Barbados Ambulance is doing.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Scard, is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1s.

## SUGAR AND THE WAR.

Mr. E. R. Davson will read a paper entitled "Sugar and the War," at the Royal Society of Arts, at 4.30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 2nd. Lord Desborough, K.C.V.O., will preside on this occasion, and through the courtesy of the Royal Society of Arts, tickets for members and their friends can be obtained free of charge from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

## INDIA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Lord Sydenham, in the course of the discussion on a paper read by Mr. E. A. Molony before the East India Association, on January 18th, said that India was the largest producer of cane sugar in the world, growing in normal years 3,000,000 tons. The large increase in internal consumption in recent years testified to the rising prosperity of the agricultural classes. India now required, in addition to her own production, some 1,500,000 tons, which she got mostly from Java and Mauritius. The cessation of imports to this country of beet sugar from Germany and Austria caused by the war meant greatly increased demand here for Java sugar, and consequent shortage in India. That would mean, he hoped, a great increase of sugar cultivation in India, with the help of well irrigation, and of the introduction of those scientific methods which had done so very much for the prosperity of Java. India always had been and always must be pre-eminently an agricultural country, and the best way to help her was to increase the produce of her land—a work in which the co-operation of educated Indians could be of the most powerful assistance.

## WEST INDIAN TRADE WITH CANADA.

The following figures show the extent of the trade between the West Indies and Canada during the last three years. The financial year ended on March 31st in each case:—

	1912.	1913.	1914.
Imports from	\$	\$	\$
Canada*	4,553,176	4,552,668	5,128,302
Exports to			
Canada†	10,550,611	9,730,615	8,201,240
Total ...	15,103,787	13,292,283	13,329,542

	\$	\$	\$
* Including—			
Breadstuffs ...	2,131,480	2,231,895	2,877,010
Fish ...	1,567,166	1,375,137	1,219,357
Wood and manufactures	352,263	320,370	346,309
† Including—			
Sugar and molasses ...	10,039,781	8,871,713	7,329,746
Cacao ...	85,260	84,509	267,248

## THE PROHIBITION OF CACAO EXPORTS.

On the subject of the Prohibition of Cacao the *Times* of January 22nd, said: "The action of the Government will no doubt serve to place a check upon exports reaching Germany through the channels which have been hitherto employed for that purpose, but there is, of course, a direct trade to Holland from Portugal, from France, and elsewhere which the prohibition will not affect in any way. If supplies do not reach Holland direct from Great Britain, there is nothing to prevent supplies which formerly went to that country reaching Holland through other neutral countries. The question is a complicated one, and the feeling in the trade is that the embargo on cacao exports may have more effect in restricting our own trade than in preventing supplies reaching Germany. It is suggested, too, that if the prohibition is made absolute there may be some difficulty in handling the West African crop, which must come to the United Kingdom, and which is far in excess of the total consumption in this country."

In their fortnightly Cocoa Report, dated January 11th, Messrs. C. M. and C. Woodhouse, dealing with the matter say: "Business in this [the London] market was brought to a standstill on it becoming known on 7th inst. that the export of cocoa to the Continent was prohibited, except to France, Russia, Spain, Portugal and some Mediterranean ports. The Government no doubt have been influenced by the very large exports that have been made recently to neutral countries, but it must be remembered that these countries in the past have drawn their supplies chiefly from Hamburg, and the diversion of this business to London will probably more than account for the large increase in exports. There has been a more than corresponding increase in imports, and the stocks in the United Kingdom at the end of the year were over 10 per cent. in excess of those at the end of 1913. If the prohibition is made absolute the chief difficulty will be due to the West African crop, which must come to the United Kingdom; the output of the Gold Coast was over 113,000,000 lbs. in 1914, while the total United Kingdom cocoa consumption was just half this figure."

It is understood that the Swiss chocolate manufacturers have resolved to request the Government to undertake the purchase of all raw cacao for Switzerland during the war. This, they hope, will satisfy the French and British Governments and so prevent an important Swiss industry from being involved in serious difficulties.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Alastair M. Frame, partner of Messrs. Frame, Leaycraft and Co., Wall Street, New York, and eldest son of Mr. G. Macgregor Frame, and Rosina Marcone, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Marconé, of New York.

**DE RUYTER'S DEFEAT AT BARBADOS.**

1st May, 1665.

BY N. DARNELL DAVIS, C.M.G.

*But, what made Tromp set up his Hagen Broom,  
Did he for Boots, or Shoes, or old Hats come?  
Or if, to sweep the Channel (as some say),  
He may be set a work here every day.  
The Broom is chimney-proof, get it but in,  
And Tromp may soon turn up a Sooterkin.  
But (sootiless) cease your mighty brags,  
We need but Martial Boats to take your Flags.*

Verses on the Naval Victory over the Dutch,  
London, 1665. B. Musset. C. 20 f. 2 (61).

Much had happened since January 1652, when Francis, 5th Lord Willoughby of Parham, the brave Cavalier Governor of Barbados, had surrendered to that fine old Commonwealth Admiral Sir George Ayscne, with whom Colonel Thomas Modyford and Colonel Birch had joined with their Regiments, in the Parliamentary Cause, rather than that the Colony should be ruined by a bloody struggle between the Cavaliers and Roundheads of the Island. The King had come to his own again, and, to use the words applied to Mac Fleenoc, by Dryden, now reigned "from Ireland to far Barbados on the Western Main." Lord Willoughby, one of the last Barons, after having been formally banished from Barbados by Act of the Legislature, had, on his return to England, actively interested himself in movements for the restoration of the King, notably when he joined with Whitelocke in urging upon General Fleetwood that he should declare for Charles, and so reap the rewards that Monk, otherwise, would secure, but Fleetwood forebore to pray for guidance, and promptly said he must know how General Lambert would act. And now, Willoughby was not only back at Barbados as Governor-in-Chief of the Caribbee Islands and Captain-General of the King's Forces, but he had resumed possession of his own Proprietary Colony on the Main Land of South America, Willoughby Land, at present represented by the Dutch Colony of Surinam. Again, on the Restoration, the Planters had appealed to the King to take the Government out of the hands of the Lords Palatine, the Earls of Carlisle, from whose misrule they had long suffered, and to govern it directly as a Royal Colony. This had been done, and the Earls of Kinnoul as heirs of the Earls of Carlisle were to receive as a *solatium* for loss of their Palatinate, the sum of £1,000 a year, for ever, a transaction disclosed by Mr. Bradlaugh in his *Revelations of the Pension List*, wherein this payment appears to have been compounded for the annual sum of £676 4s.

To pay this Pension and make provision for other claims against the Province of Carlisle, which included not only Barbados, but several of the Caribbee Islands, comprised in the Patent of 1627 to the first Earl of Carlisle, all the Plantations in question submitted to a Tax upon their Products of 4½ per cent. This tax was paid by all the Colonies concerned for about 175 years, and many-life the

moneys so paid were frequently misapplied. Edmund Burke, the illustrious statesman, resented the payment of his pension from this source, instead of its being charged against the Consolidated Fund. Seeing that he had himself said that "a sensitive mind felt dishonour like a wound," he could not but squirm at being placed on a List that had included royal mistresses. But of all that had happened since Governor Willoughby surrendered Barbados to Admiral Ayscne in January, 1652 (N.S.), nothing was so far-reaching in its effects as was the institution of the Navigation Laws on the Restoration. Now, this was in a measure a breach of that part of Article 9 of the Treaty of Surrender, which provided that "all trade be free with all nations that do trade and are in amity with England": an exception which Cromwell was mortally offended with the Admiral for yielding, and which Ayscne justified on the score of the strength of the Forces opposed to him. The Articles in the Treaty were approved and confirmed by Parliament on the 18th of August, 1652, and Governor Searle, who succeeded Sir George Ayscne, faithfully observed this provision, until Sir William Penn, on his way to Jamaica, with General Venables, in 1655, seized all Dutch vessels found at Barbados, as being there in contravention of the Act of Parliament passed on the 3rd of October, 1650, for prohibiting Trade and Commerce with Barbados, Antigua, Virginia, and the Somers Islands, because of their rebellion against the Commonwealth of England. Upon that Act the Navigation Laws were passed. Those Laws, although for the greater part of two centuries restricting the Commerce of the Colonies, promoted the Commerce of Great Britain, built up the Naval superiority of the mother country, and, gradually, undermined the mercantile pre-eminence of Holland. During the 17th Century, there was a bitter rivalry on the part of English merchants with their Dutch competitors, upon whose activities the Navigation Laws fell as a smashing blow, and deprived them of their mercantile superiority.

**A threatened attack by the Dutch.**

At this juncture Lord Willoughby had left Barbados for a time on a visit to his own Colony of Willoughby Land, when Barbadians were stirred by a warning that a Dutch fleet would shortly attack the island, and that it would be under command of the formidable De Ruyter, whom the Dutch proudly styled the "Son of Neptune." Of this they had been warned by Order of the King, and by Captain Reynolds, who, in command of the Royal African Company's ship *Great Gift* had recently arrived from the coast of Guinea, where he had been a witness of De Ruyter's exploits. Indeed, his ship had been captured at Goree by De Ruyter, and subsequently been released by him.

As yet there was no war formally declared between England and the United Provinces, but the English Admiral, Sir Richard Holmes, had been secretly des-



patched to the West Coast of Africa with a squadron of ships, when he not only expelled the Dutch from Cape Coast, but seized their settlements at Cape Verde and the Isle of Gorée. In like manner, De Ruyter was secretly despatched to the West Coast, where he ousted the English and reinstated the Dutch. All went on merrily down to the 23rd of April when De Ruyter being at sea, there was a deliberation as to the best means of "insulting the English at Barbados," and as to the order of battle on the occasion. Then, onward they sailed till the 30th of April, when Barbados was sighted, too late in the day to be able to effect anything. Accordingly it was decided to lie off for the rest of the day and the whole of the night, and to await the dawn to surprise the English.

#### Defensive measures in Barbados.

In the absence of the Governor of Surinam, General Henry Willoughby, nephew of the Governor, on receiving notice of the hostile intentions of the Dutch, had summoned his Council and a Council of War, when it was determined that a watch, or look out, be kept on the heights of the island, to seaward, which, on discovery of 5 sail of ships in company should give the alarm to the country, and, at the same time, send off a messenger to Bridgetown, or the Town of St. Michael, as it was also called, to give notice to the Governor. A General Muster, both of Horse and Foot, was ordered, "Which made a very great appearance." Then the men who had fought at Marston Moor, at Naseby, at Dunbar, or at Worcester, and their sons, declared with one voice "that they would stand it out to the utmost, and behave themselves like valiant Englishmen and good subjects." Such, indeed, was the resolution of the Islanders, as well as of the brave seamen then in harbour, that they agreed "rather to dispute it to the last man, than to suffer the least Boat, or a single ounce of Sugar to be taken from them." There were about 40 merchantment in port at the time, some of which were laden and of considerable value. Of the ships four belonged to the Royal African Company. It was arranged that all the vessels should be drawn up in the shape of a half-moon, under cover of the Forts. They were placed under the command of Captain Reynolds of the Royal African Company's ship *Great Guift*. The masters were ordered to keep a strict watch, to have their gun charges mounted, their arms well fixed, and no men were to be allowed on shore. The Deputy Governor appointed Major William Bates to command the fort in the town—James Fort, and Captain Edward Yeamans, with his company, to Charles Fort, at Needham's Point, and other companies to other forts. Some were to lie in ambush. The rest of the Foot, together with the Horse, were to attend the enemy's movement along the sea-side. False alarms were given from time to time to which the islanders promptly responded with readiness and resolution.

When morning broke over Barbados on Thursday

the first of May, 1665, a mist hung over the coast and the wind was light. Nevertheless, the sharp look out at Perkin's Mount, now called Mount Pleasant, discovered De Ruyter's Fleet of fourteen ships sailing from the Eastward, five of them carrying 60 guns apiece. Word of warning was promptly sent to the Governor. The Governor forthwith called the islanders to arms. All fell into their appointed stations, in such a manner as surprised the enemy when he approached the scene. The Militia numbered about 8,000.

On nearing Needham's Point, De Ruyter divided his fleet into two squadrons, as follows:—

#### FIRST SQUADRON.

Vice-Admiral De Ruyter,	<i>De Spiegel</i> (The Mirror).
Commander-in-Chief,	
Commander de Wildt,	<i>De Provincie van Utrecht</i>
Vice-Admiral,	(The Province of Utrecht).
Captain Willem van der	<i>De Geloop</i> (The Faith).
als Schoot by Nacht der	
Vlooke	
De Capitein Isaac Sweers	<i>Middelburgh</i> .
De Capitein Hendrik	<i>Damiaten</i> .
Adriaansz	
De Capitein Jacob Cornelisz Swart	<i>Edam</i> .
De Capitein Bruno Doederz	<i>De Groene Kamed</i> .
Star	

#### SECOND SQUADRON.

Vice-Admiral Meppel, als	<i>'T Noorden Quartier</i> (The
tweide opperhoofdkon	Northern Quarter).
Admiral (Second in Com-	
mand)	
De Schouwlymacht Aart	<i>de Princes Louise</i> .
van Nes als, Vice	
Admiral	
De Kapitein Issndert Ha-	<i>Rotterdam</i> .
wands als Schoutlymacht	
De Kapitein Jan van Nes	<i>Harderwyk</i> .
Dock Geeritz Pomo	<i>De Roode Leeuw</i> (The
	Red Lion).
Govert 't Hoen	<i>Kaleb</i> .

#### De Ruyter in Carlisle Bay.

Ordering the other ships to follow, De Ruyter, with the red flag flying at the *Spiegel's* topmast, led the way into Carlisle Bay. He was followed by Admiral Meppel and Captain Sweers. All came on bravely, as if certain of carrying things before them. The *Spiegel* sailed as near in to Needham's Point as her burthen would admit. Captain Yeamans opened a hot fire upon the *Spiegel*. De Ruyter recognising the *Great Guift*, the ship which he had released at Gorée, did not return a shot at the Fort, but stood boldly into the road, and, when he came within distance of the *Great Guift's* stern gave Captain Reynolds's vessel a broadside, with a smart volley of small shot, and all the other Dutch ships gave her a broadside. From the Ketch *Hoperevell*, of Bristol, which was in the thick of the battle, De Ruyter could be seen on the poop of the *Spiegel*, with a cane in one hand and a cutlass in the other. The Dutch Admiral tried to get alongside the *Great Guift*, to board her, but, in so doing, nearly ran the *Spiegel* aground. James Fort and the English shipping now joined in a furious fire upon the enemy, shooting away the *Spiegel's* foresail, while *'T Noorde Quar-*

lier, Admiral Meppel's ship, lost her mainyard, and two other Dutch ships lost their topsails. A hot fire was maintained on both sides, each pounding away at the other. The action was short, but sharp. Suddenly, at about 4 o'clock, headed by the *Spiegel*, all the Dutch ships bore up and came to an anchor, they took down their red colours and hoisted blue ones instead. Six of them went on to the careen to stop their leaks and mend breaches. A Council of War was held on board the flagship, when it was discovered that the *Spiegel* herself had been so battered that De Ruyter had found himself unable to board the *Great Guift*, though that vessel had been rendered incapable of resistance. All the *Spiegel's* sails, running rigging, bowlines, reef-tackle, her foremast stay, and ten of her shrouds, had been cut. She had received three or four shots on the water-line, two shots in her mainmast, and half her mizzenmast had been carried away. Her stern had been carried away, and was "as wide as a barn's door." Most of the other ships had been so knocked about that they were not in a condition to be manœuvred, and there was great risk of their running aground. The Council of War was not long in deciding that the Fleet must withdraw, not only because of the injured condition of the ships, but because some of them were in need of provisions and water; some had not water for more than three days, and others had none at all, and had to be supplied by those that had any. It was promptly decided to repair quickly all damage, to stop all leaks, splice ropes, and get into a condition to make sail for Martinique—the principal French Colony in the Antilles.

#### The Dutch flee in Confusion.

At 6 o'clock—just sunset—the Dutch Fleet sailed for Martinique where they landed some English whom they had made prisoners on the West Coast of Africa. According to an eye-witness they went away "in the confusedest manner that possibly could be."

After leaving Martinique, De Ruyter made prizes of 16 English ships which he captured from under the Forts of Montserrat and Nevis, without exchange of shots, for the colonists lacked a supply of powder. Some of the vessels were burned, as being poor sailors, others were added to the fleet, while some were sold to the French at St. Christopher's, or to the Dutch at St. Eustatius. On his way to Europe De Ruyter called at Newfoundland, where it is stated to his discredit, as a great man, that he meanly took away the clothes of the colonists.

The Dutch had placed nearly 3,000 shot in Bridgetown, in the ships and in the forts. Some "bullets" of 30 lbs. weight were afterwards picked up. They made a breach in one of the forts, through which they could see the militia come out "in troops." In his modest report to Secretary Bennett (Lord Arlington), sent by one Fletcher, upon his victory, Henry Willoughby, desired that it might "be put into His Majesty's thoughts to supply this island with half a score guns, larger than at present we

have, as a whole culverin, sacre, and demy-cannon shot." Adding that "if our guns had been better, some of the Dutch ships had never gone off." (Colonial Papers, XIX., No. 51).

If the Barbadians were correctly informed, the main object of De Ruyter's attack was to destroy the shipping in Carlisle Bay; in this he signally failed, nor did he capture even a small boat. Even a vessel that had been severely mauled by him, as had been the *Great Guift*, had been repaired in quick time and arrived in England with a rich cargo, soon afterwards, as was reported from Plymouth on the 12th June, thus: "Have arrived this morning from the Barbadoes, the *Great Guift* (Captain Reynolds, Commander) with 24 rich ships, four of them belonging to the Royal Company, namely, the *Welcome*, the *Willing Mind*, the *James*, and the *Experience*. They say it was a sharp bout that De Ruyter had, and that he came on as if he had made little question of carrying the business." (The *Intelligencer*, No. 51, Monday, July 3rd, 1665, pp. 528-29).

It was with thankfulness to the Almighty that the islanders saw the Dutch ships depart. Their triumph had not cost them dear. Captain Parsons, in one of the ships was killed, three men were killed, of whom one was a sick man who was in his hammock, and one negro woman. About ten men were wounded ashore. Thirty-three barrels of powder were used: almost all they had in the island. Captains Reynolds, Smith, Brathwaite and Thomas are said to have behaved themselves very handsomely during the fight.

On the Dutch side, it was admitted that in the *Spiegel*, there were eight dead and fifteen wounded, some of the latter having legs or arms taken off, or broken. A single shot knocked down Paul Adrianes (clerk, first writer of the ship), a gentleman named Bellechère, and a sailor, and mortally wounded the trumpeter: Adrianes died some time after the fight, without one drop of blood issuing from the wound. On board the *Middelburgh*, Captain Sweers lost his second mate, and another man. No one was killed on the other ships, but some were wounded.

The following Relation of the action was recorded at the time by the Master of the Ketch *Hopewell*, of Bristol, which was in the very thick of the fight. The date given is that of the Old Style of reckoning. (Record Office, Colonial State Papers, Vol. XIX., No. 50).

"A true Relation of the Fight at the Barbados between the Forte and Shipping there, of the English, and De Ruyter, Admiral of the Dutch, the 20th of April, 1665. Observed by the Master of the Ketch *Hopewell* (bound for Bristol) who was then riding the outermost vessel of the whole English Fleete, and took particular notice of the whole transaction.

"About 6 of the clock in the morning, there was a report of De Ruyter coming; and, about 10 of the clock, we saw him with the whole Fleete, which consisted of fourteen seyle, and when he came by

the Fort, he did not fire one gunn until he came at the *Giff's* sterne. Then he fired a whole volly of small shott, and his broad-side, and so did all the rest. Then the Fort and Shipping fired at him, and they shot away all his foresaile, and the Vice Admiral lost his maynyard, and two others lost theyre topsayles.

"11 o'clock. De Ruyter stayed, and, in staying, wee shot downe his mayne yard, and made one of them lie the carene to stop her leaks.

"12 o'clock. De Ruyter fired his broad-side again, and six of the rest, and we did make two of them lie on the carene to stop theyre leaks, and we dammified theyre sayles very much.

"1 o'clock. De Ruyter stayed again, and he could hardly round cleare of the Shippe *Allen* of Poole, and then he was not so far from me as twice the length of his shipp. I did see him on the poop, with a cane in one hand and a cuttle-axe in the other; and, as he stayed, I did see most part of his quarter carried away.

"2 o'clock. After De Ruyter was trimmed again, he did fire his broad-side, and did the rest of the Fleet. Our ships shot again at De Ruyter, and one of his boats at the sterne and sunk her. Also, we did rend one of the rear Admiral's mayne sayles out of the ropes, and did place three shots in one of the Vice Admiral's, and layde him all on one side, with which I do belive he had much water in his hold.

"3 o'clock. I did see all De Ruyter's stern, to be carried in, that it was so wide as a barne's door; ad, after that shott, they did not fire any more, for I do suppose De Ruyter was then killed.

"4 o'clock. After this De Ruyter's shippe did bare up, and came to an anchor, and all his Fleete, and they did take downe all their red cullers, and put up blew, and then they did all repayre on board De Ruyter's ship, as I suppose, to have a Councell of War.

"5 o'clock. They did ride the space of an houre, and then they weighed aneker, and did bare before the wind; and, when they wore off they did lye and mend theyre sayles.

"I saw foure of them lye on the carene and stop theyre leaks.

"6 o'clock. They went away in the confusedest manner that possible could be.

"Three days after we did hear they were at Martinicoa."

(To be continued).

INTENDING passengers by the R.M.S. *Magdalena* to-morrow will have learned with joy that her place is to be taken by the *Ebro*, which will sail from Newport, Mon., for Barbados, Trinidad and Colon on Thursday, January 28th. The *Ebro* is the sister ship of the *Essequibo*, which met with such favour on her maiden West Indian voyage.

## LOOKING BACK.

*Under this heading extracts from the old records and minute books of the West India Committee are published. The earliest minute book is dated 1769; but there is evidence that the Committee was in existence before that year. In the earlier days there were two Committees, those of the West India Planters and the West India Merchants, which met jointly as the "Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants," a name which survived until 1904, when the West India Committee was incorporated by Royal Charter granted by King Edward VII.*

### VI.—Sugar and Molasses as a Cattle Food.

At a meeting of the West India Committee held at Wright's Coffee-House, Soho Square, on June 2nd, 1807, the Right Hon. Lord Penrhyn presiding, the Secretary read the following memorandum from a Mr. Orson:—

"Since the day the gentlemen of the West India Committee were pleased to hear the outlines of a proposal for the introduction of a new and, as yet, untried mode of using raw sugars, the proposer of this new mode has had an opportunity of reducing the experiment to practice, so far as to satisfy himself that, as an individual, he can continue the use of raw sugar to great advantage, and, at the same time, without incurring the smallest danger of discovery. However, having made a proposal to the gentlemen of the Committee, he considers himself not at liberty to retract, without giving those gentlemen an opportunity of adopting or rejecting the proposed plan; for which purpose, he will if agreeable to the gentlemen of the Committee, write down, and enclose in the form of a letter, the nature of the discovery, and put into the hand of Mr. Holden, who will hold it until the gentlemen of the Committee shall have considered what sum of money they may think prudent for the purchase of the secret, by which there may be a chance of benefiting themselves. They will also please to come to a determination, as to the quantum of recompence the inventor shall appear to be entitled to, proportioning same accordingly to the actual increased consumption of sugar, and not having any reference to any profits, real or imaginary, the inventor might suppose to relinquish, by giving publicity to his invention. The gentlemen will also please to have a proper explanation with Government, as to the remuneration they will be inclined to give, for the increase of revenue that must naturally follow increased consumption."

Resolved, That, if Mr. Orson should discover any practicable and legal mode of carrying into execution an additional consumption of British plantation sugar within the three kingdoms, not interfering with any other existing consumption thereof, this Committee will recommend it to a general meeting of Planters and Merchants to authorise this Committee to appropriate, out of the funds which it may raise from year to year, under the denomination of "Trade," upon the import of sugar for seven years to come, and annual sum to be paid to Mr. Orson, equal to 2s. for every hogshead of sugar, which shall be proved to have been so consumed in consequence of his discovery.

At a further meeting on June 8th, 1809, it was resolved "That the Treasurer be directed and authorised to pay the sum of £200 to Mr. William Orson, of the Isle of Man, for the pains he has taken, and the expense he has incurred in introducing the use of sugar and molasses in the feeding and rearing of cattle.

## COLONIAL REPORT.

### Stable Prosperity in Barbados.

Major the Hon. J. A. Burdon, in his report in the Blue-book of Barbados for 1913-14 congratulates the island on the stable nature of its prosperity which is demonstrated by the maintenance of the revenue in spite of a falling off in the value of sugar and cotton—the colony's two staples. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure and imports and exports of the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	*Imports.	*Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1909-10	195,803	199,625	1,119,343	888,686
1910-11	213,298	211,949	1,345,194	1,088,830
1911-12	221,906	215,997	1,539,710	1,005,931
1912-13	221,624	221,340	1,465,431	1,085,569
1913-14	214,865	222,177	1,353,059	856,618

\* For calendar years 1909-1913.

While 38 per cent. of the imports came from the United Kingdom—or the same percentage as in 1912, those from Canada rose from 13 to 14 per cent. at the expense of the United States, the imports from which fell from 29 to 28 per cent.

A comprehensive table prepared by the Comptroller of Customs shows that the effect on the revenue of the Preferential Tariff Act, which was in operation from June 2nd, 1913, was a net loss to the revenue of £9. It would, however, says Major Burdon, be misleading to accept the result of the first six months' working of Preference as a conclusive guide to its permanent effect, for the reason that the coming into operation of the Preferential Tariff found a quantity of British goods in bond. These goods eventually, in the absence of a certificate of origin, paid the higher rate of duty.

The following table gives the destination of the principal products exported for the past two years:

	1913.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	55,170	57,455	—	2,285
Canada	312,053	525,506	—	213,453
Newfoundland	45,964	53,877	—	7,913
United States	69,200	60,956	2,244	—

## THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

No business house having dealings with the West Indies can afford to be without the West India Committee Map of the West Indies, which is finding much favour also with the education authorities in those colonies. Among the special features embodied in the map are sea distances in nautical miles, cables, wireless, and oil and coaling stations, while three insets giving a plan of the Panama Canal, a chart showing the area and population of the various West Indian colonies, and a map showing the trade routes between the islands and the United States and Canada, make a strong appeal to business people.

The map—the size of which is 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 10 inches—can be seen both mounted and in sheet at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The reduced price to members of the West India Committee is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 6d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

## CONSULAR REPORTS.

### Where the "Bourbon" still flourishes.

The Bourbon cane still holds sway in Angola, Portuguese West Africa, its nearest competitor being the Yuba. Since the prohibition of the manufacture of rum and the gradual indemnification of those manufacturers who changed their product from rum to sugar, the production of sugar in Angola has been steadily increasing; the majority of principal manufacturers have recently installed or are about to instal modern mills and machinery and the area brought under cultivation is being continually extended. There are seven principal factories actually producing sugar, and the amount of sugar (unre-

fined) produced by them in 1913 was about 4,500 metric tons. If the mills could have been worked at full pressure it is calculated that they could have produced more than three times that quantity. It is also calculated that, given sufficient machinery and labour, the area planted with cane at the end of 1913 could have produced some 22,000 tons of unrefined sugar. The sugar is shipped unrefined in order to enjoy a low scale of customs duties in Lisbon.

### Central Factories in Martinique.

In Martinique there are no fewer than fifteen central sugar factories, of which six are private concerns, nine being owned by companies. From the Consular Report for 1912-13 it is possible to summarise the results of their operations as follows:—

Name	Capital.	Reserve.	Canes crushed.	Production.			Total Sugar Extraction	To Farmers per metric ton of Sugar extracted.	Net Profits.		
				Crystals.	Molasses.	Rum.			Sugar.	Distillery.	Dividend.
	Francs.	Francs.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Litres.		Per cent.	Francs.	Francs.	Per cent.	
Petit Bourg..	1,200,000	383,646	70,251,068	5,793,975	2,500,000	1,938,300	8.24	39,2227	908,067	44.194	30.69
St. Marie ...	1,200,000	547,161	52,114,680	4,346,804	1,455,961	880,207	7.23	37,13936	550,743	27.151	27.60
Francois ...	1,200,000	481,915	42,815,426	3,352,583	1,192,323	927,201	7.83	33,64764	472,204	22.348	18.56
								per 1,000 kilos.			
Riviere Salée	1,161,000	300,000	45,264,443	4,013,648	—	—	8.86	39,790	567,106	—	23
Basse Pointe	700,000	247,695	19,688,590	2,785,906	543,731	262,997	9.06	28	151,551	15.288	5
Lementin ...	2,000,000	Nil.	59,453,035	5,072,920	1,604,920	—	8.52	36,9232	—	—	Nil.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. J. DARRELL WALL, recently clerk to the Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, has passed through London, with his wife and infant, on his way to the Tonga Islands in the Western Pacific, of which he has been appointed Auditor-General.

\* \* \*

THOUGH the prospects of a raid on any of the West Indian islands are even more remote than they were at the outbreak of the war, it will be of interest to residents in those islands to learn that the Government has appointed a Committee to recommend what compensation shall be given to those who suffered from loss or damage to their property through the raid on Scarborough and the Hartlepoons.

MR. T. A. SIDDALL, engineer, of 10, St. Dunstan's Hill, London, E.C., who caters for all the requirements of a Lime Juice Factory, of which he has made a special study, has sent us a copy of his catalogue which contains some new features. It contains particulars of limes crushing mills for the smallest to the largest estates, and a very neat little mill with 7 in. dia. rolls, and feed cutting and squeezing roller. He has also brought out a new ecuelle pan.

\* \* \*

It frequently happens that, outside of All Hallows Church in Great Tower Street, from some cause which does not at present admit of explanation, horses are continually jibbing. They are in full view of the West India Committee staff, and on this occasion it has become customary for one of them to administer a few lumps of sugar to the refractory animal. The treatment has never failed, the refractory animal becoming at once docile and willing. But, and the "but" should be writ large, the sugar must be cane sugar.

\* \* \*

A NEW patent in connection with latex coagulation has been taken out in Brazil by Professor Heinrich Colosets of Berlin. According to the *India Rubber World*, the idea of the patent is to separate the albuminous matters, which by present means of coagulation, are left in the rubber, causing, it is stated, decomposition of the rubber. To this end caustic potash or soda is added to the latex, which forms a soluble compound with the albumen. By the addition of iron salts, these soluble compounds are formed into compounds difficult or impossible to dissolve in water. The rubber is then coagulated, the albumen being left in it in the form of these insoluble compounds.

\* \* \*

We are so accustomed to regard explosives as the peculiar attribute of war, that their value in peaceful occupations is apt to be overlooked. Throughout the world they are used in mining and quarrying, and in recent years they have come forward for use in land-clearing, subsoiling and other

branches of agricultural work. Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, was no friend of war; in fact, one of the four prizes which he left to be bestowed out of his great fortune was for the furtherance of peace. The name of Nobel is synonymous with the best things in explosives, and it is interesting to note that the Nobel's Explosives Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, have appointed Messrs. Gordon, Grant and Co., of Trinidad, as their agent in the West Indies. Nobel's is a purely British Company, and the explosives they manufacture are subject to all the tests and regulations laid down by the British Government, and expert advice as to the kind of explosive to be used for any particular purpose is freely given.

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MR. G. C. DRUCE, M.A., who will be gratefully remembered by many former Oxford undergraduates recently delivered a lecture on the West Indies and Panama Canal. We fear that he must have been done an injustice by a reporter, for it is impossible to believe that some of the remarks put into his mouth actually emanated from it. Thus he is alleged to have stated that "Antigua was noticeable for the number of water-geysers which shot up in various parts of the island," and, again, that "the houses there were composed of black lava, which gave the town a somewhat sombre appearance." This for an island which more often than not is parched from want of water, and is characterised by the whiteness of most of its houses, is delightful. Regarding the Pitch Lake, the lecturer informed, or is said to have informed, his hearers that "these lakes were now bored and petroleum was produced in large quantities. In some cases shafts had to be sunk 1,200 feet before petroleum could be found, but when once it was found the oil rushed out at a tremendous speed."

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THE following advertisement of the sale of a Tobago estate was reproduced in the *Times* of January 5th from its columns of 1815.

Valuable Sugar Plantation, in the Island of Tobago, in the West Indies.—By Mr. BERRELL, at Garraway's, on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 12 o'clock, by direction of the proprietors, in order to make a division of the property, a very valuable ESTATE, on the south side of the Island of Tobago, on the eastern branch of Great River, within 2 miles of the Shipping Beach, and 10 miles from Scarborough (the seat of Government): consisting of a very desirable SUGAR PLANTATION, called the LURE, containing 500 acres of most excellent and productive land; nearly 200 acres of which are cleared, the remainder mahogany and wood land; has on it 90 negroes, 34 mules, and 28 head of horned cattle, with a capital sugar engine, water mill, and works, equal to the making 100 hogsheads of sugar per year; with a house, and workshops, etc. Printed particulars may be had 20 days preceding the sale, at Lloyd's Coffee-house; the London Commercial Coffee-house, Mining-lane; the Jamaica Coffee-house, Cornhill; the Exchange Coffee-house, Liverpool; the Bush Tavern, Bristol; of Mr. Burrell, 5, Throgmorton-street; and at the place of sale.

Lure Estate recently the property of Sir William Ingram, is now owned by the The Trinidad Land and Finance Company, Ltd.

A DEFICIT in the Budget of 700,000 francs, and the withdrawal of the Home Government subsidy of 300,000 francs, has compelled Guadeloupe Government to place an export tax on the principal articles of Agricultural produce. The amounts of the tax are as follows :—

*Sugar*—Up to 30 francs per 100 kilos, 1 fr. 20. per kilo; from 30 to 35 francs, 4 per cent. *ad valorem*; from 35 to 40 francs, 5 per cent. *ad valorem*; from 40 to 50 francs, 6 per cent. *ad valorem*.

*Coffee*—Up to 300 francs per 100 kilos, 3 francs; from 300 to 350 francs, 1.25 per cent. *ad valorem*; from 350 francs upwards, 1.50 per cent. *ad valorem*.

*Cacao*—Up to 200 francs per 100 kilos, 2 francs; from 200 to 250 francs, 1.25 per cent. *ad valorem*; from 250 francs upwards, 1.50 per cent. *ad valorem*.

*Vanilla*—20 francs per 100 kilos. *Vanillin*—10 francs per 100 kilos.

Considerable exception is taken to this taxation. As M. G. Bureau, to whom we are indebted for this information points out, sugar has to bear a higher rate of taxation than other agricultural products. It is also considered that the deficit could have been met by reasonable economies in the administration rather than by taxing the produce of the soil.

## REVIEWS AND PERIODICALS.

The American Jewish Historical Society was formed in 1872 for the purpose of collecting and publishing material bearing upon the history of America, and to promote the study of Jewish history in especial relationship to the New World; with the development of which from the very beginning Jews have been associated. It is with the records of the achievements of these men that the Society deals; and annual meetings are held at which papers are read in connection with this interesting study. The more important of these are published periodically, and it is with No. 22, covering the twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second meetings that they are now concerned. Among the many interesting papers is one by Dr. Joseph Jacobs, in which the claims of the two American Rebeccas to be the original of Sir Walter Scott's world-renowned heroine of "Ivanhoe" are discussed, the author coming to the conclusion that Rebecca Gratz, the beautiful Jewess of Philadelphia, no doubt occupied that distinguished position. Included also in the contents are "Notes from the Wills of the Family of Massiah of Barbados," from the pen of the great West Indian chronicler, Mr. Darnell Davis. Those who realise the prominent part which the Jewish nation have played in the development of America and the West Indies will read the publications of the American Jewish Historical Society with the greatest interest. Together with No. 22, we have also received the index of the previous numbers, 1 to 20, occupying 600 (6 in by 9½ in.) pages.

## OBITUARY.

MR. J. D. HARPER.

We regret to state that Mr. J. D. Harper died very suddenly in Antigua on January 3rd.

Mr. Harper, who was an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Antigua, was a valued member of the community. Regarding him, Mr. Cowley, our correspondent in that island writes: "One can hardly write about the deceased without being accused of fulsome eulogy. My acquaintance with Mr. Harper began 35 years ago when I served as overseer under him on Blubber Valley estate, and from then till his death he was a very great friend. I was proud to call him so. Step by step he forced his way upwards by dint of sheer hard work, honesty of purpose and absolute straightforward dealing. A man of many sides and interests, a first class planter, a capable self-taught engineer and veterinary surgeon, he lately went into business as a chemist in St. John's. The deceased was in the employ of Hon. Mr. J. Couacho, and had been for a number of years a member of the Legislative Council, independent in his views, and capable of strongly expressing them. As an adviser of the Government his loss will be greatly felt. An active member of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and one of the Committee of Management of that body, he was always to the fore in anything for the good of the community, and had lately taken a strong position with regard to prædial larceny.

Mr. Harper was a man whose loss would be felt in a far larger community than this, and in our small island where good and true men are scarce, his death is almost irreparable. The respect he was held in was shown by the immense concourse that followed him to the grave. From the labourer up to the representative of His Excellency, all classes were there. He leaves a wife, son and daughter to mourn his loss, and the sympathy of the whole community goes out to them in fullest measure. Mr. Harper was 67 years of age. He was a strong friend and true, and faithful to those who were worthy—a bitter foe to those who in any way were not straightforward.

MR. MICHAEL McTURK, C.M.G.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Michael McTurk, Protector of Aboriginal Indians in British Guiana, which took place on January 8th, after an attack of typhoid fever.

Mr. McTurk, who was born in 1843, had had an adventurous career, and had been intimately associated since 1872 with the Hinterland of British Guiana, with which, in the thirty years which he passed almost entirely in the forests, he was thoroughly familiar. He was the first to cut a path through the bush to the then little known Kaieteur Falls, and was the second white man to reach Mount Roraima. While a magistrate in the North West, he was taken prisoner by the Venezuelans at the time of the dispute which led to the Boundary Arbitration. A man of wiry frame, inexhaustible energy and dauntless courage, the name of Michael McTurk is inseparably connected with the pioneer work of opening up the Colony of British Guiana. Mr. McTurk was twice married, his first wife being a daughter of Captain Ormson of England, and his second is the daughter of Mr. E. J. R. Willocks, of Demerara, and a sister of Lady Cox, the wife of Sir Charles Cox, late Government Secretary of the Colony. He leaves eight children, one son and three daughters by his first wife, and two sons and two daughters by his second.

A detailed list of publications to be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms will be forwarded post free upon request.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

WE are not "starving in a land of plenty," but high shipping freights and shortage of labour are sending up food prices to an extent calculated to impress the householder with the sternness of war. The scarcity of "hands" is being felt in more than one direction. In our last issue we mentioned the ease of the docks. Now the farmers are crying out. This lack of labourers tends to strengthen the official view of the rally to the colours. Now that Great Britain has become the workshop for half Europe her manufacturing power is as essential to the Allies as her military assistance.

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Force of circumstances rather than political agitation seems likely to introduce into this country a measure of Tariff Reform. At any rate, the war will compel us in future to make many articles hitherto imported. Shortage of material has caused us to realise as never before our dependence upon foreign countries. That dependence at the present time can only be described as an additional source of danger. The dyes used in the woollen industry have been almost wholly purchased from Germany, and the cessation of the supply is causing grave concern. Nor is this all. It is being brought home that many products of our colonies have hitherto found their way to Germany and have reached the Mother Country as manufactured articles. It is hoped that in future this raw material will find its way directly to Great Britain for manufacture.

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THE fair picture of patriotism and self-sacrifice which England presents at this moment is being slightly marred by the action of certain contractors. One or two firms entrusted with the supply of butter to the Army have been fined for adulteration. It is regrettable that as yet the law permits only the imposition of fines instead of severe terms of imprisonment. The baser features of commercialism are also seen in the conduct of one or two hotel proprietors. German waiters discharged at the outset of the war in response to pressure of public opinion, are, it is alleged, being restored and English waiters ousted. One can sympathise fully with the outraged feelings of wounded British officers at being waited upon by their country's enemies.

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BRITISH GUIANA will be interested in the wedding which has just taken place in England, of Captain A. N. R. McNeill, R.A.M.C., son of the late Mr. Alexander McNeill, of Colonsay, N.B., to Nora, daughter of Mr. C. S. Davson, Chief Justice of Fiji, and Mrs. Davson. The ceremony took place at Barley, Berkshire—the place from which Lord Reading, Lord Chief Justice of England, takes his title. It is a coincidence that the father of the bride succeeded in Fiji Sir Charles Major, who left the islands in order to become Chief Justice of British Guiana.

THE bridegroom represents a family which has given one or two distinguished representatives to the public service. Among lawyers the name is held in honour of Duncan McNeill (1793-1874) who after holding in turn the offices of Solicitor-General for Scotland and Lord Advocate, was appointed Lord Justice General and Lord President of the Court of Session. Ultimately he was raised to the peerage as Lord Colonsay and Oronsay, under which title he rendered distinguished service in the House of Lords. Lord Colonsay's brother, the late Sir John McNeill, G.C.B., became an eminent diplomatist, and was sent out as a Commissioner to the Crimea to investigate various grievances associated with that campaign. Another member of the family—happily still alive—is Ina Erskine, daughter of the late Mr. Archibald McNeill. Miss McNeill became Secretary to Queen Victoria, and in 1895 married, as his third wife, the eighth Duke of Argyll, the well-known statesman and friend of Gladstone, whose eldest son, the ninth Duke married Princess Louise.

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THE Earl of Bessborough, whose family is so well known in West Indian circles, has been appointed a Knight of St. Patrick. The Order is limited to twenty-two illustrious Irishmen, and the honour will doubtless acquire additional value in the eyes of Lord Bessborough in that he succeeds to the ribbon worn by Lord Roberts. Lord Bessborough's brothers, the Hon. Arthur Ponsonby and the Hon. G. Ponsonby (of St. Lucia) need no introduction.

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MENTION of honours and titles reminds us of the controversy which has arisen in connection with Lord Aberdeen's promotion to a marquessate. The retiring Viceroy proposes to perpetuate his long connection with Ireland by styling himself Marquess of Aberdeen and Tara. Tara is so closely bound up with Irish poetry and sentiment—as indicated in Tom Moore's famous song—that several correspondents have written to the *Times* urging that it should be used as a title only by an Irishman. An interesting contribution to the discussion is made by Georgina, Viscountess Gormanston, widow of a former Governor of British Guiana. Lady Gormanston states that in 1650 Thomas Preston, fourth son of the fourth Viscount Gormanston was created by Charles II. Viscount Tara. Again, at the time of the Union, another member of the Preston family was created Baron Tara.

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THE *Times* announces an engagement between Mr. T. R. Sneyd-Kynnersley, R.F., only son of the late C. W. Sneyd-Kynnersley, C.M.G., and Lady Egerton, and stepson of Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana, and Alice, only daughter of Canon Rowland V. and Mrs. Barker, and granddaughter of Sir Inglis Palgrave, F.R.S., of Henstead Hall, Wrentham, Suffolk. The late Mr. Sneyd-Kynnersley, father of the prospective bridegroom, was a leading member of the Colonial Civil Service in Southern Nigeria.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

VANILLA can be successfully cultivated not only on granitic alluvial soils, but also on the sandy and volcanic soils. From a series of analyses conducted by Mr. A. Fauchere a soil with a high phosphoric acid content would appear to be especially good, a particularly productive soil containing as much as 0.75 per cent. of phosphoric acid. The amount of vanilla from a fairly productive estate is given by this authority as 530 lbs. per acre, green.

ACCORDING to the *Natal Agricultural News*, in some experiments with the Uba and D74 cane made at the Coast Experiment Station, surprising results were obtained as to the depth to which the roots of these canes penetrate. The canes were planted in arid and scantily irrigated land, and it was found that the roots of the Uba Cane had penetrated 12 feet below the surface, and those of the D74, 5 feet; the roots of other varieties not penetrating more than 18 inches.

A GREAT point which the advocates of sugar beet growing make is the improvement effected in the soil by its cultivation, due to the great depth to which the tap root goes. Not only is deep tillage essential, but much organic matter in the way of roots, is left in the lower part of the soil as a source of humus. Heavy manuring, however, is necessary, as the beets take much out of the soil. No doubt the thorough cultivation necessary, apart from the question of the beets themselves, has an excellent effect upon the soil.

THE *Agricultural News* of Natal gives some interesting particulars as to the working of a cane planting machine which has been experimented with in that colony. The machine works on three wheels, the one in front running in the furrows; the others, one on each side of the drill. The cane plants are dropped into a funnel, and are deposited regularly in the cane row. A mould board and ploughshare are fitted underneath the hopper containing the plants, which effect the covering of the cane plants. The machine promised to be a success.

SOME interesting results in connection with nitrification have been obtained at the Utah Experiment Station. It was found that the nitrifying power of the surface foot of soil was ten times that of the second foot, and many times more than that of the third, fourth and fifth feet respectively. With irrigation the nitrifying power was decreased especially in the first two feet, the effect continuing during the following season. More than 50 per cent. of the full water capacity of the soil was found necessary for complete nitrification. Further, the addition of nitrogen as ammonium sulphate to an extent greater than 170 parts per million produced an inhibitory action on the nitrifying organism.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.



The letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the *Essequibo*, which reached Falmouth on Jan. 18th, and the *Danube*, which arrived at Falmouth on Jan. 24th, contained a good deal of information regarding the movements of His Majesty's ships, which we do not, however, feel justified in publishing. It must suffice to say that no stone is being left unturned to secure the safety of our West Indian colonies. His Excellency Mr. G. B. Haddon-Smith had assumed the reins of Government at Grenada, having been sworn in with fitting ceremonial on December 30th, while Mr. Douglas Young was leaving St. Lucia for his new sphere of utility in the Falkland Islands. In Trinidad trouble had arisen through the decision of the authorities to reduce the number of San Fernando Government Medical Officers.

#### BARBADOS—The Change in the Dutch Standard.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE K.C.M.G., JANUARY 5th.—I am glad to hear that your Committee has protested against the arbitrary action of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The Agricultural Society is moving in the matter of the darker No. 16 D.S. in the Canadian Customs. The change will, as is stated in the CIRCULAR, kill our centrifugal grocery sugar trade in Canada. Our island has been honoured by the King by the conferment of the dignity of Knight Bachelor on the President of the Legislative Council and we feel proud of the honour. Some heavy showers would do us a world of good as the past fortnight has been dry. The young canes are coming up nicely, and should not take a great many plants to supply the gaps. Our thoughts are of the war and the brave men who are suffering untold hardships, and cheerfully giving their lives in the cause of truth and justice, and we eagerly look forward to the telegrams to see how it fares with them.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—Trade brisk in spite of the War.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JAN. 2nd and 9th.—Owing to the late departure of the Royal Mail steamer from your side we shall not get mails until next week; an opportunity was given us to-day to connect at Trinidad with R.M.S. *Essequibo* on the 5th instant. The weather during the fortnight has been showery and favourable generally for the estates. The Christmas and New Year holidays passed off quietly, and, contrary to expectations, trade in the Street is reported to have been very brisk prior to Christmas.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana on December 23rd, Professor J. B. Harrison presiding, the Hon. C. Clementi was elected President, the other officers being: Vice-President, Hon. J. B. Laing; Hon. Secretary, J. Cunningham; Hon. Treasurer, Hon. C. F. Wieting; Directors: Rev. Jas. Aiken, M.A., Messrs. W. Stuart Cameron, H. V. Delafons, G. F. Franks, M.A., Mewburn Garnett, Jas. Gillespie, Hon. J. Hampden King, Hon. J. J. Numan, B.A., LL.D., T. A. Pope, B.A., C. Wieting, and the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chairman of the Planters' Association, and the Director of Science and Agriculture.

I regret to advise the death on the 5th instant of Mrs. Smith, the wife of Mr. John Duke Smith, of Messrs. Smith,



Bros., and Co., Ltd., at the age of 66; and of Mr. M. McTurk, C.M.G., who died on the 7th instant at the Public Hospital of typhoid, aged 72 years.

#### DOMINICA—The Alterations in the Mail Service.

MR. E. A. AGAR, JANUARY 7th.—After notifying us that she would not call in on her way north, the Royal Mail steamer called in yesterday (Wednesday) to our great convenience, and is to return on Saturday. The arrangements as detailed by you for the future service seem to have been made without the slightest reference to the convenience of the public who are paying the subsidy, and I hope you will be able to get the schedule altered to a more reasonable one. Then the increase of passenger fares is surely unnecessary, and will certainly tend to prevent sailings, we are suffering quite enough from high freight rates as it is. But I see no reason why this sort of thing should not continue and grow more burdensome; the West Indies are unable to combine and act in concert even when their pockets are touched, and until we are willing each of us to forego some small cherished advantage for the general good and so put a single plan of action before the authorities, so long shall we be at the mercy of any powerful company or group that cares to exploit us. You have certainly made out a good case for free cacao, but none of us would like to find that we had made a little extra profit for the benefit of our enemies.

December did its best to make up for the shortage of the year's rainfall, and in some cases succeeded, but we have started the year with fairly fine weather. The Christmas season passed off much as usual, but the dances did not "go" quite as they should have done; every one is pre-occupied, and with the best intentions in the world it is impossible to throw off the obsession of the war.

The Legislative Council have passed a new Road Ordinance, which I hope will prove better than the one it supersedes, it is far better in wording, but wording and working are not always the same thing. It was also resolved to begin the reconstruction of several sections of main roads, and to purchase a steam-roller, a motor lorry, and a stone breaker, so it may be that we are really going to get to work at last. The town of Portsmouth has been given a Town Board, and as there are plenty of energetic inhabitants, it should soon improve the place. I do not know what funds will be available. The Rev. H. L. Dixon, who came a little over a year ago to be the first rector of St. John, Portsmouth, has been obliged to resign owing to ill-health, to the real regret of all who know him. Mr. Dixon's name will always be associated with St. John's. He has built and presented to the church a good parsonage house, and has so generously contributed to the funds of this church, and of that of St. Andrew's, Marigot, that is attached to the same parish, that both churches are in a healthy financial position. Mr. Gooding from Antigua will succeed him temporarily as curate-in-charge.

#### JAMAICA—A miniature range for Port Antonio.

The Port Antonio Reserve Regiment of the Local Forces has decided to open a miniature rifle range at Port Antonio. At a meeting at the Tichfield School the following officers were appointed: Major W. H. Plant, President; Captains L. Downer and J. R. McCrea, vice-presidents; V. Ellis, secretary and treasurer; with Messrs. J. and O. Stockhausen, Lieutenant Eaves and Inspector Adam, members of the committee. The Spring Hill Hotel, Montego Bay, has been re-opened for the winter under the management of Mr. G. G. Hussey. Mr. Noel B. Livingstone has presented a stipple engraving of Sir Archibald Campbell, Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica in 1872, to the Institute of Jamaica.

#### MONTSERRAT—Patriotic feeling running high.

MR. K. P. PENCHON, JANUARY 8th.—The Xmas season has passed quietly. There were one or two fine days, and some showery weather. The weather generally was favourable for pleasure seekers during the day, rain falling nearly always at night. The weather has been unfavourable for the second bearing of the cotton, and with the presence of innumerable cotton stainers there has been again a disappointment in our hopes of a second crop. The chief feature of interest during the past fortnight was a patriotic service held by the Rev. Canon Haines at St. Anthony's Church on Sunday the third. This was well attended, the Defence Force and police parading, His Honour, the Commissioner, Mr. Leslie Jarvis, being present in uniform. Canon Haines gave a stirring address, after which the National Anthem was enthusiastically sung. Montserrat does her little share. Messrs. Maloney and Killikelly, sons of two of our respected citizens are now being drilled in England in preparation for the front. Mr. J. Kingsley Mastin, Clerk to the Administration, has rejoined his regiment in England, and our Commissioner, Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, has been called home by the War Office. The patriotic feeling is as strong in Montserrat as anywhere in His Majesty's Dominions.

#### ST. KITTS—An appreciation of our War Summary.

MR. R. J. SHELFORD, JANUARY 1st.—We welcome the first fortnightly article appearing on the war, and I am sure this is a feature that will be highly appreciated by your overseas readers. There is nothing of any particular interest to mention locally. The holiday season has passed quietly and uneventfully, and there was no marked depression in the Xmas trade in the stores. We cannot complain of weather conditions during the last two months, and crop prospects have materially improved since early November, when things looked almost hopeless. £200 has been forwarded by the local Belgian Relief Committee, and there are some outstanding accounts still to be collected. In this connection a very successful Children's Play entitled "Peach Blossom" was given at the Grammar School on the 30th December, and repeated on the 4th January, to crowded houses. Patriotic songs and recitations were introduced, the whole making a very attractive programme.

We regret to hear of the illness of Sir Hesketh Bell, which prevents him visiting the Presidency at present. His Honour T. L. Roxburgh has left for Dominica to fill the post of Administrator there, pro tem., Captain A. Roger, I.S.O., assuming the office locally.

#### ST. LUCIA—Mr. Douglas Young's departure.

HON. G. S. HUDSON, JANUARY 2nd.—The weather continues wet with some high winds. During November and December the daily average rainfall has been nearly half an inch, which indicates "some" moisture. This should help the young plant canes for the 1916 crop, but it has ruined the chance of a good "small" cacao crop in April to May next; still the main crop has been a good one, and with present prices we cannot grumble. His Honour W. Douglas Young and Miss Young gave a farewell "At Home" at Government House last week, and are leaving by this mail. It is rumoured that his successor arrives by the following mail in St. Lucia.

#### ST. VINCENT—Boisterous Christmas weather.

MR. W. N. SANDS, JANUARY 1st.—I have little to record this mail. Christmas-tide was not as bright as usual from a business point of view, and there was a sort of "stand-by" attitude everywhere. The weather, too, was not at all good, being boisterous and wet.

The weather is still wet for the time of year, and cotton planters are rather unhappy in consequence. The arrowroot market seems to have been badly affected by the war. With cotton and arrowroot both suffering from poor markets I am afraid that we shall have to go along very carefully for some time.

#### TOBAGO—Castilloa waiting for 2/6 rubber.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JANUARY 1st.—Greatly to our disappointment the home mail is a week late, and for the first time for many years we are compelled to write without having letters to answer. The change in the service gives us an extra mail on 11th January, but it will take time to get matters into order again. The great war makes itself felt everywhere, and if the Royal Mail steamers are carrying troops to crush the Germans no one can grumble that this causes our mail service to be temporarily upset. [The shortage of ships was not given as a reason for the suspension of a contract sailing and modification of the timetable.—EDITOR.] Our December rainfall was 5.72—two inches better than 1913, and we trust that the droughts are now at an end. The total for the year is 56.10, or 6 inches less than for many years past. The cacao crop is late. Heavy pickings were made all over the island in December and the prospects for January are good, but the future depends on the weather, as the trees have not yet recovered from the drought. Prices are more encouraging, last sales being at \$14.50. I got \$4.05 per cwt. for copra, but coconuts are still very depressed. Rubber growers are hoping that it may shortly be possible to tap their Castilloa trees. It is useless to think of doing so until the price is 2s. 6d. per lb. at least. Holidays are now in full swing, with concerts and dances in all the schoolrooms. Cacao picking will employ good gangs from next week onward, but other work will be in abeyance, as the natives prefer to devote January to their own gardens.

It is rather annoying that another three weeks interval has to be faced before we get home news, which is so very interesting these days. No wonder you protest against three days for replying to letters, and in this I think the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company most autocratic—surely it would be possible to divide the time better. On our side getting letters the day after posting, and having to wait thirteen days for another mail, is a most unsuitable arrangement. If the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is not more considerate of its customers, those who pay the subsidies must see that they are better protected when the contract expires.

Since my last letter the Supreme Court met at Scarborough, and its labours were confined to civil matters. Crime, like the island, is on a small scale, and it is to be hoped that this happy state of affairs will continue, although praedial larceny is a serious evil, very hard to detect, and, in these days of keen lawyers, harder still to get a conviction.

The New Year started with fine refreshing showers, followed by three or four dry days and light showers since. Cacao is ripening rapidly, and all estates are busy picking. Drying floors are being extended as the cultivation comes into bearing and exports will shortly be into five figures. The peasant proprietors are keen on cacao growing, and are now giving much better attention to their trees, although past neglect takes years to overcome. Prices are now more encouraging and are needed to make up for the short crop and spell of low prices in 1914. Coconut planting is still being extended in the hope that prices will improve when the war is at an end. The special or emergency taxes on produce from 1st January are rather resented, as it is felt that agriculture is bearing a burden that ought to

be shared by capitalists and officials. The natives are under the impression that this "war tax" goes to help the soldiers, and one man to whom I explained that it was to pay for roads, police, and officers' salaries, etc., very pertinently asked, "Why don't the Government Officers pay a share when the money is chiefly for them!" It does seem odd that the Civil List was actually increased since the war commenced, and the public and Press are now very keen on economy and revision.

#### TRINIDAD—San Fernando's Medical Service.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JANUARY 5th.—We have had two warships here. These ships rush in and out again with hardly a pause, but the — — happened to arrive, and her captain and one or two officers to call at Government House, just as the Governor was leaving for the second day of the races, so his Excellency brought them along with him, and the Stewards had the pleasure of entertaining them at lunch during their brief stay. But the Turf Club Races are, I am sorry to say, but a shadow of their former self, when all Trinidad from Governor to East Indian coolie flocked to the Savannah, and made it the greatest festival of the year, stands and ground being alike crowded with merry joyous crowds, the most striking feature of which was the absence of the rowdiness, the drunkenness, and robbery which so often degrades some of the race courses of the old country. This year the grand stand was half empty, the class of horses was far inferior to that of bygone days, the Savannah itself was mostly empty, the prizes offered were insignificant in comparison with what they used to be, but quite as much as in the altered circumstances the Club could afford. And the reason of all this will be asked? It is due to a short-sighted, mistaken act, which formerly was carefully avoided, and it is a sore point with members of the Club, but this is not the time to stir up enmity or bitterness of feeling, so it is better to say no more about it for the present. Unfortunately, however, it is quite on the cards that our Christmas races will after this meeting, prove to be a thing of the past.

We are in the throes of another medical bullaballoo. Two Government medical men have hitherto been found necessary for San Fernando and its populous districts. Now, for motives of economy, it has been decided to have only one, and San Fernando has risen in its wrath. The Borough Council has said its vigorous say: a largely attended public meeting has spoken even stronger; the whole population of the Southern Quarter is united as one man; they will not be deprived of what they hold to be their fair share of medical comfort. More than one deputation has waited on the Governor, but His Excellency stands very courteously but very firmly determined in the matter, and now there is only the last resource of the Crown Colonist, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Harcourt will very probably find within the next few weeks that there is more in the Trinidad Government Medical Service than he has previously dealt with in his philosophy. But our second town forgot its troubles on New Year's Day, when they held some excellent athletic sports at which all the countryside attended. The weather was much against them, but notwithstanding this the events were keenly contested, and every one was as merry as circumstances permitted. The Governor was there, and his presence during these strenuous times was much appreciated.

Since the outbreak of war local festivities have been for the most part suspended, even the pleasant dances by the members at the St. Clair Club, but this latter institution saw the New Year in with a very pleasant gathering, and music and dancing resumed their wonted sway.

The current cacao crop has been easily a record one. During the early part of December prices advanced steadily until \$15.40 was paid for "Fine plantation," but with more substantial receipts from the country, prices gradually declined until to-day when Ordinary and Estates have changed hands at \$13 to \$13.50 respectively. Rain has fallen in good quantity, which, although interfering with drying operations now, is very beneficial to the young fruit. From Venezuela a good crop is expected.

January 5th.—Cacao has come in more freely, and shipments amounted to 1,809,380 lbs., against 1,685,130 lbs. for corresponding month last year. The total for 1914, although less than generally anticipated constitutes a record. During the early part of December, prices advanced steadily, until \$15.40 was paid for "Fine Plantation," but with the arrival of moderate supplies from the country, rates declined, and on the 31st "Ordinary" and "Estates" were quoted \$13.00 and \$13.50 respectively. Some welcome rain has fallen which, though interfering somewhat with drying operations, is very beneficial to the young fruit on the trees. Reports from Venezuela state that a very good crop is anticipated, the first pickings of which will be marketed about the end of January. Recent small arrivals have sold at prices ranging from \$13.75 to \$14.00 per fanega.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during month of December were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	796,556
B. N. America	87,200
United States of America	925,624
<b>Total for December</b>	<b>1,809,380</b>
Shipped previously	61,638,496
<b>Total from 1st January</b>	<b>63,447,876</b>
To same date, 1913	48,116,377
" " 1912	41,625,625
" " 1911	46,790,353
" " 1910	57,839,074
" " 1909	51,575,071
" " 1908	47,632,438
" " 1907	41,038,204

The charge of 2s. 6d. is made for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths (which must be authenticated) and of "Wants," Crossed cheques or P.O. Orders, should be made payable to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

#### BIRTH.

**Stapleton-Cotton.**—On the 18th January at Farnborough, the wife of F. A. Stapleton-Cotton, Lieutenant, 6th (Service) Batt. Royal Scots Fusiliers, of a daughter.

#### DEATHS.

**Campbell.**—On the 18th January, at Brantridge Park, Balcombe, Sussex, Finlay Campbell, D.J., aged 75.

**Harper.**—At Antigua on January 3rd, Mr. J. D. Harper, from heart disease.

**McTurk.**—At Georgetown Hospital, Demerara, on January 8th, Mr. Michael McTurk, C.M.G., from an attack of typhoid fever.

**Yearwood.**—On the 2nd January, 1915, at Friendly Hall, Barbados, B.W.I., after months of patient suffering, Elizabeth Ann Clarey (Bessie), the beloved wife of H. Graham Yearwood, M.C.P.

#### Want.

**Wanted.**—By experienced Sugar Planter. Responsible position abroad.—Planter, c/o West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

### The West Indian Mail Service.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—It is with pleasure I notice in your CIRCULAR of December 15th that your Committee has at last taken up the cudgels on behalf of these islands with regard to the mail question.

Let us suppose that the shoe had been on the other foot, and these islands and British Guiana had refused to comply with their part of the contract; would not they have had the Colonial Office down on them like a thousand of bricks; in fact, such an attempt would never have entered their minds. Your leader correctly points out that other shipping companies have not increased their freights; and, I also add, have continued their services regularly, in spite of the war. One must admit they have had more to contend with than the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. on account of the enemy ships infesting their route. This cannot be said of this route; not once have the West Indian mail boats been stopped. There is a true adage "Necessity is the mother of invention," let us hope that the West India Committee will use its utmost endeavours against the shipping combine.

A few months ago, I tried the experiment of shipping some goods via New York to this island. The time occupied in transit was a trifle longer, but the saving of freight would be considerable on present prices. Merchants must ship via London, say by the Atlantic Transport Line, and mark the cases N.Y.Z. (for argument sake) New York. Care must be taken not to mark West Indian port of destination. The cost for bondage, cartage, etc., at New York, came to 25s. Laces, embroidery, etc., make up into medium sized parcels, and can be sent per parcels post; this latter way is a great saving in time and cost of packing cases, which have gone up considerably of late.

I also beg the Committee to point out to the Colonial Office, that this continual increase of freights is a heavy burden on the masses of these islands, whose wages have not increased; but this increase of living will soon become a momentous question.

In conclusion, I trust the Committee, likewise these islands, will see the fallacy of signing a contract whereby freights, passage money, etc., can be raised *ad lib.*, without any redress being obtained.

If these islands and British Guiana have recourse to again subsidise, (which Heaven forbid) any shipping company, let them for goodness sake fix up a business contract.

Yours faithfully,

Barbados, January 6th, 1915.

W. ABBOTT.

[The Postmaster General is not free from blame in the matter of the cancelled sailing. It must not be forgotten that he sanctioned it.—E.P.]

The report of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company for the year ended September 30th last, just to hand, shows net trading profit of \$332,086, including \$26,796 brought forward, against \$169,406 for 1912-13, when \$24,286 was brought forward. The Board maintains the 5 per cent. dividend, which it has declared every year for the last five years, the carry forward being \$182,193, or practically seven times the amount of the previous year.

### OUR LIBRARY.

The Editor is glad to receive copies of publications relating to the colonies, photographs of West Indian scenery, or of local events of topical interest, and donations towards the Library Fund, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

**Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, K.C.M.G.** A Story of Energy and Success. By A. H. Milne, C.M.G. Illustrated with 12 plates. Liverpool: Henry Young and Sons, Ltd. Sir Alfred Jones's happiest associations were not with the British West Indies. During his connection with Jamaica he experienced a cyclone and an earthquake, in which he nearly lost his life and his splendid vessel *Port Kingston*. Any life of this great man—for great he undoubtedly was—would not be complete without details of the vicissitudes of the Jamaica banana venture. These are not to be found in Mr. Milne's book, which, we fear, conveys a mistaken impression of the actual result of Sir Alfred's patronisation of Jamaica which he claimed to have rediscovered. What Sir Alfred actually accomplished was to give a unique advertisement to Jamaica, to develop it somewhat as a tourist resort, and to demonstrate that bananas could be carried naked over more than four thousand miles of ocean and marketed in this country, for which alone he would deserve to be gratefully remembered. In accomplishing these objects the much-discussed "banana contract" was a *we* are convinced, a conspicuous success. But whatever views may be held as to this particular venture, there can be no two opinions upon the value of what Sir Alfred did for the tropics, his greatest work being undoubtedly the foundation of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. His energy was unbounded, and his enthusiasm magnetic. Work was his joy and recreation, and while ceaselessly active himself, he had the capacity of making others work, and getting the best he could out of them—as he so often urged his hearers to do in the case of Cabinet ministers whom he so often entertained at banquets. For the sick and suffering he always had a kindly thought. "What do you want me to do for him?" was his invariable question when any man deserving of charity was brought before his notice. And he always did what he was asked to do. We should like to have read more of the personal side of Sir Alfred, the banquets in which he took such a delight, his ceaseless journeys to and from Liverpool, on which he was accompanied by his typists and secretaries, his many *bon mots* and good humoured chaff. Again Mr. Milne hardly does justice to Sir Alfred's philanthropy, which, while sometimes criticised and even abused, during his lifetime, remains clearly and distinctly emphasized by his will, under which so many charitable and educational institutions are now benefiting. An extract from this document forms a fitting conclusion to this brief life history of a great man.

"**Glorious Liberty**": The Story of a Hundred Years' Work of the Jamaica Baptist Mission. Leonard Tucker, M.A. The Baptist Missionary Society, London. 54 in. by 84 in. 168 pages. 2s. This little work is practically a history of the Baptist Church in Jamaica for the last 100 years, the opening chapter affording a brief sketch of the early days of the island with especial reference to the slavery system and religion. The subject is treated in an interesting manner, but it is to be regretted that the author has allowed himself to express views and to make sweeping statements as regards the treatment of slaves which are now universally regarded as only having occurred in isolated cases. In taking this ultra "Exeter Hall" tone gross injustice has been done to the West Indian planters of those days. Thus the statement that "The Rubber Concessions of the Belgian Congo and the hemp-fields of modern Mexico tell the same sad tale of Jamaica in the days of slavery." Were it not that the fallacy of these old accusations had been shown long ago, we should read the author's diatribes with anger; as it is we only view them with sorrow; sorrow than an able and conscientious writer should have allowed the mental warp that statements like the one quoted indicate.

**Our Opportunity in the West Indies.** Benjamin G. O'Rorke, M.A. Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London. 134 pp. 1s. Coincident with the receipt of "Glorious Liberty," this work, also dealing with the practice of religion in relation to the West Indies has come to hand, and the breadth of the author's views are in striking contrast with those of Mr. Tucker. As regards the conditions of slavery Mr. O'Rorke says: "It is by no means certain that had we lived in those days, we should not have been warm advocates of the 'traffic' as were many devoted Christians. Only a few could see any harm in it. . . . The Baptist and Moravian Communities, renowned for their strictness, were on its side, and were themselves slaveholders. Even the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, when the Codrington Trust came into its hands, making it the owners of hundreds of slaves, felt it more humane to retain and treat them well than to set them free." Again, "It was in the interests of the owners to keep them in good health. . . . It is refreshing to read that women, children and the aged were often generously provided for. As "Glorious Liberty" dealt with the Baptist work in Jamaica, so Mr. O'Rorke's little volume gives an account of the S.P.G. in relation to the Caribbean colonies, interspersed with interesting topographical, historical and ethnological details, necessarily; and for the readers, unfortunately, in a very brief form.

### THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

During Lieut-Colonel Davidson-Houston's absence on active service Captain C. H. Elgee will act as Commissioner of Montserrat. Captain Elgee had an exciting experience at the outbreak of war, having been on a Woermann liner. He was marooned at Pernambuco. While Major Bryau, who has also returned to serve his country in the field, is away from Jamaica, the Hon. Robert Johnstone will act as Colonial Secretary. Mr. A. P. Mahaffy is expected to take up his new duties as Administrator of Dominica in the course of a few weeks, while the Hon. C. Gideon Murray is already installed in St. Lucia.

Mr. Hugh McLelland has been appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, to which body Mr. Adam Smith has just been reappointed for a further term.

### WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), Jan. 13th, "Few showers have fallen, but more rain is much wanted."  
**British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnel and Co., Ltd.), Jan. 22nd, "Weather showery generally." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), Jan. 14th, "Weather favourable—dry Berbice." (Messrs. H. K. Davson and Co.), Jan. 22nd, "Weather is favourable for the growing crop." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), Jan. 25th, "Generally favourable—showery." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co.), Week ending Jan. 6th, **PORT ANTONIO**, Dec. 30th to Jan. 2nd, "Rain." 3rd to 6th, "Fair." **KINGSTON**, Dec. 30th, "Rain." 31st, "Fine." Jan. 1st, "Showery." 2nd, "Fine." **Trinidad** (Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd.), Jan. 18th, "There has been a favourable change in the weather." Jan. 23rd, "Weather continues favourable."

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies, which fills a long felt want, now hangs in many of the Clubs in the West Indies. We hope that before long it will be in all such institutions.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Latest Quotations.		PRICES
Share		Jan 23.
Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	97
Barbados	3 3/4% Redeemable 1925-42	85
British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1935	98 xd.
British Guiana	3% Redeemable 1923-45	76
Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	96
Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1914	99
Jamaica	3% Redeemable 1919-40	87
Jamaica	3% Redeemable 1922-44	78
St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	97
Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	98
Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1922-44	77 xd.
6% The Colonial Bank ... 54		
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...		
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...		
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4% Debentures ... 102 xd.		
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures ... 104		
Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2% Debentures ... 104		
6% Angostura Bitters Part Preference ... 151/2		
6% New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures ... 103 3/4		
7% Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. ... 34 1/2		
Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/2 shares) ... 6		
Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ... 35 1/2		
Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref. ... 105 1/2		
Demerara Railway Company 4% R.R. Pref. ... 82 1/2		
Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures ... 89 1/2		
Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2% Debentures ... 99		
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ... 84		
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Cum. 1st Pref. ... 84		
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd " ... 84		
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 3% Debentures ... 90 1/2		

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Danube*, (Captain W. Barrett), Feb. 10th:—

Rev. and Mrs. F. H. Hammond	Miss J. N. Gardner	Mr. J. K. D. Hill
Mr. A. Steer	Mr. & Mrs. N. Farrar	Mr. T. F. Carroll
Misses Hutchinson (2)	Miss Farrar	Mr. W. A. Farmer
	Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Barron	

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, (Captain E. W. Morrison), Feb. 24th:—

Mrs. E. Sadler

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—SAILINGS FROM AVONMOUTH TO KINGSTON, JAMAICA, per S.S. *Aracataca*, (Captain F. W. Castle), Feb. 1st:—

Mrs. Blackden	Miss E. Middleton	Miss J. Wurtley
Miss D. M. Brown	Mr. R. P. Rezie	

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

**British Guiana.**

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	
Sugar	103,771 83,051 Tons.
Molasses	831 1,171 Puns.
Rum	1,401,845 1,250,343 Galls.
Melasseut, &c.	2,371 6,816 Tons.
Cocoa	49,857 56,565 lbs.
Coffee	238,767 80,342 "
Coco-nuts	1,889,921 875,595 No.
Oranges	
Bananas	
Cotton	
Pimento	
Ginger	
Honey	
Dyewoods	
Gold	63,425 79,153 ozw.
Diamonds	9,582 7,217 Carats.
Rice	13,823,743 16,569,498 lbs.
Halota	1,022,751 1,321,065 "
Rubber	1,160 600 "
Timber	212,418 437,111 cubic ft.
Lumber	251,250 515,383 feet
Lime (airrate off)	11,091 3,564 lbs.

**St. Vincent.**

Jan. 1 to Oct. 30	
1914 1913	
Arrivrt.	1,362,938 4,013,155 lbs.
Cacao	187,014 177,268 "
Cotton	520,666 476,695 "
Seed	798,028 1,105,804 "

**Trinidad.**

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	
Sugar	47,040 31,528 Tons.
Molasses	4,704 3,760 Puns.
Rum	1,788 982 "
Coco-nuts	15,001,145 15,726,698 No.
Asphalt	123,594 208,164 Tons.
Manjak	266 517 "
Bitters	15,442 19,986 Cases.
Coffee	16,240 6,640 lbs.
Crude Petrol	12,083,768 12,934,828 Galls.
Cocoa	64,797,600 49,203,200 lbs.
Cotton	
Seed	
Capra	14,728 6,070 Bags.
Spice	
Kola	

**Barbados.**

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	
Sugar	33,267 31,124 Tons.
Molasses	102,697 82,090 Puns.

**Grenada.**

Oct. 1 to Jan. 2, 1914/15	
1914/15 1913/14	
Cocoa	2,623,680 1,893,960 lbs.
Cotton	
Seed	
Capra	96 30 Bags.
Spice	421,845 348,910 lbs.
	1,290 1,240 "

**Dominica.**

Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1914.	
1914. 1913.	
Cacao	512,672 808,192 lbs.
Limes	43,342 19,026 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	235,057 243,117 galls.
concentrated	85,994 41,784 "
Citrate of ...	4,272 1,614 cwts.
Lime Oil, distilled	2,910 2,714 galls.
enuelled	1,057 641 "
Hardwood	36,121 62,416 feet.
Bananas	2,599 2,782 stems.
Cocconuts	469,546 120,181 No.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. F. E. Everington	Mr. C. H. McLean
Mr. A. F. Anderson	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. C. W. Prett
Mr. E. G. Bradton	Mr. M. A. French, J.P.	Mr. G. Raitton
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. A. E. Bratt	Mr. E. A. H. Hagkart	His Honour Mr. Justice
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke	Mr. A. S. Kernahan	P. M. C. Sheriff
Mr. A. Campbell	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. W. Smith
Lt.-Col. W. B. Davidson-Houston	Mr. J. F. Loader	and
	Mr. J. A. Madewick	Mr. J. D. Wall
Mr. G. Carew, "Graylands," Ashburton, Devon.		
Rev. F. H. Hammond, 30, Chapel Street, Warwick.		
Mr. N. Scott Johnson, 26, Hillside Road, Streetbam Hill, S.W.		
Sir Frederic M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.		
Major O. H. F. Moreaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.		
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.		
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.		
Mr. Julian G. Rust, c/o Messrs. Frevite & Co., 2, Crosby Square, E.C.		
Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.		

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Essequibo*, (Commander J. G. K. Cheret), Falmouth, Jan. 18th:—**

Mr. A. F. Bratt	Mr. Walter Holmes	Miss S. Orzard
Miss Bainbridge	Mr. S. Egerton Hine	Mrs. Penny
Mr. Walter Berhanu	Mr. & Mrs. R. Harvey	Miss Porter
Mr. B. Bannister	Mr. Lennox	Mr. C. R. Spockdale
Miss Nancy Blenkarn	Mr. J. Mathieson	Mr. A. H. Seringeour
Mr. John W. Curtis	Miss A. Marvin	Mr. Percy Simpson
Mr. L. Dowdall	Mr. W. J. Odjers	Miss Mahel Tucker
Mr. G. Davidson	Captain Griffith Owen	
Lt.-Col. Forbes-Ellen	Dr. A. T. Orzard	

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Ebra*, (Captain J. G. K. Cheret), Jan. 27th:—

Mr. Henry d'Esterre	Mr. C. C. Walton	Miss M. A. M. Bondard
Mr. Alex. G. Nicoll	Captain C. H. Eljse	Mr. H. L. Burn
Mr. Ford	Mr. Edwin C. Joysay	Mr. Enrique Carrizosa
Ms. B. P. Anderson	Miss L. Clements	Mr. & Mrs. F. Vasquez
Mr. F. G. Rose	Miss Paterson	Misses Child (5)
	Mr. A. N. Mackay	

The new edition of the Pocket Guide to the West Indies (5s. net) includes chapters on British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bermudas, the Bahamas, the Spanish Main, and the Panama Canal.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE** remains at 5% as from August 8th, 1914. Consols are quoted at 68½ and the War Loan at ½ discount. The decision of the Government to conserve capital by controlling fresh home and colonial issues and by entirely prohibiting investment in fresh foreign issues, has met with widespread approval. This approval, however, has not been wholehearted in financial circles, whose area of business has thus been considerably curtailed. Business at the Stock Exchange continues steady, a position of affairs due in great measure to the new regulations, which prohibit dealings in stocks held by foreigners.

**SUGAR** The New York market, under the combined influence of the Cuban crop and the strong holding-off attitude of the refiners has weakened considerably Cuban centrifugals, which were quoted at 4.11c., duty paid, at the date of our last report, now standing at 4.01c. In this connection it is interesting to compare the value of American granulated in New York with that in London. In spite of the higher American duty amounting to over £6 per ton on these sugars, they are quoted at only £21 per ton, the quotation in the London market for the same sugar being £27 10s. per ton. In comparing these figures, however, some allowance should be made for the attitude mentioned above of the Sugar Trust towards Cuban buying. In the London market crystallised sugar was in good demand at sales on the 19th January, and the greater proportion put up was sold at full rates; 1,056 bags Surinam sold at 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d.; 5,166 bags Demerara almost entirely at 25s. 9d. to 28s.; 8,850 pockets (pocket=65 lbs.) at 26s. to 26s. 3d.; 2,134 bags of Demerara syrups were partly sold at 11s. 3d. to 16s. 3d.; and 2,470 bags of Trinidad were bought in. At sales on the 22nd practically no business was done. The import delivery figures for West Indian sugar from January 1st to January 16th have been:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Imports	3,572	1,500	3,446	554	2,827	Tons
Deliveries	1,920	1,689	1,520	1,883	2,457	..
Stock on Jan 16	7,661	12,417	3,765	3,161	4,728	..

The trade is anxiously awaiting the decision of the Sugar Commission as regards the future. The Government supply of sugar will not last beyond April or May, unless consumption is considerably reduced, and it will soon be necessary, if the prohibition of private imports is to be continued, for the Government to go into the World's market again as purchasers, or else to announce the cessation of the Government control, which is unlikely. The consumption figures for 1914 show but a small decrease on those for the preceding year. In 1913 the consumption was 1,706,639 tons, of which 1,590,487 tons were refined; that for 1914 was 1,666,890 tons, of which 1,501,513 tons were refined, a difference of 39,749 tons. The diminution was entirely in refined sugars, the consumption of raws having increased, due largely to the substitution by the sugar-using trades of imported sugars below the white standard for the granulated previously used, as well as to the increasing manufacture of invert sugar from low grade raws. The above diminution does not, however, indicate the real loss of consumption due to the war. Up to the end of July, the increase in consumption had amounted to 39,153 tons, or at the rate of 5,593 tons per annum. Had the war not occurred, it might be considered that the consumption for the year would have been in the neighbourhood of 1,773,755 tons. The actual diminution for the last five months was therefore 106,865 tons, at the rate of 21,373 tons per month. Considering, however, the enormous rise in the price of sugar in this country and the circumstances of the war, this decrease is much less than might have been anticipated.

**RUM** Stocks in London January 16th:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica	6,130	6,226	7,021	8,486	8,812	Puns
Demerara	5,857	7,645	6,157	5,759	6,883	..
Total, all kinds	17,922	20,909	21,270	22,640	24,296	..

Trade figures show that the consumption of rum in the

United Kingdom in 1914 was 3,589,591 galls. as compared with 3,331,007 galls. in 1913, and 3,129,316 galls. in 1912. This is a steady increase, and is independent of the rum bought for the Army and Navy. This is not included in the above figures, which only refer to duty paid rum. The increase is equally divided between Jamaica and Demerara.

With a good general demand, full value is obtainable for all descriptions of proof rum. Jamaica is unchanged. A few parcels of common and ordinary are lauding, but samples are not yet to hand. In flavouring descriptions importers are accepting a price to tempt buyers.

**CACAO**—Stocks in London January 16th:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Trinidad	5,792	8,367	3,432	3,146	5,543	Bags
Grenada	5,153	3,736	2,311	7,220	9,741	..
Total, all kinds	54,616	75,775	69,687	98,267	92,792	..

At sales on the 12th January, 5,515 bags were offered, but there was no demand except for Grenada, prices for which showed a decline of nearly 10s. from those of previous sales. Trinidad may be quoted nominally at 69s. for middling red, 70s. for good middling red, and 71s. for fine and superior. Grenada 1,153 bags sold at 60s. to 68s. for fine quality. Ordinary to good fair Grenada may be quoted at 60s. to 63s., and middling to fine 65s. to 68s.; 50 bags of fine unclayed Carupano sold at 76s.

**COTTON**—The imports of cotton into the United Kingdom for the three weeks ending January 22nd, 1915, were 117,772 bales, the exports 11,285 bales.

Since our last report about 80 bales of Sea Island cotton have been sold, chiefly Nevis at 13d to 13½d., with a few St. Kitts at 13d., and Jamaica at 13d. Prices remain steady, but with stocks on hand, spinners are not disposed to add to them.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Juice—Fair business passing in Dominica at 2s. 3d.; Jamaica, ordinary to fine, is valued at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per gallon. Lime Oil (hand pressed)—Lower. Small sales at 6s. 10½d. per lb. Concentrated Lower. A good business done at £25 10s. for immediate delivery. Distilled—Lower, with good business at 2s. 6d. per lb.

**NUTMEGS**—Sales were effected at steady prices. **MAICE**—Good to fine was sold at 2s. to 2s. 11d.; red to good 1s. 4d. to 1s. 11d.; broken 7d. to 1s. 3d.; a decline of from 1d. to 2d. occurring in the two latter varieties.

**COPRA**—The Government has now prohibited the export of copra, and the market is very unsettled. Fair merchantable West Indian may be quoted at £25 to £25 10s.

**ARROWROOT**—Business done has been quite on a retail scale. Quotations 1½d. to 2½d.

**RUBBER**—No material change has taken place in the rubber market, but the tendency is to slightly lower prices. Fine plantation is quoted at 2s. 2d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 4d.; fine hard Para 2s. 6d.; fine soft Para 2s. 4d.; Castilloa sheet 1s. 10d.; and Castilloa scrap 1s. 4d.

**BALATA**—A nominal price of 2s. 1d. c.i.f. is quoted for sheet balata; block, buyers' price c.i.f. 1s. 10½d.; sellers' 1s. 11d.

**TIMBER**—Mahogany—Good sales have been effected at auctions, but the demand was almost entirely restricted to good sizeable wood. For HONDURAS, the demand for squared logs was good, round logs being unsaleable. Jamaica not required. Honduras is quoted at from 5½d. to 7d. Jamaica 4d. to 5d. Cedar in poor demand, better class logs fetching full prices. Stocks of Trinidad of ordinary and poor description were quite sufficient for trade purposes. Honduras is quoted at 4d. to 5½d.; Trinidad 3d. to 4½d. **Satinwood**—There have been no enquiries for Jamaica, which is quoted at £4 to £8 per ton; St. Lucia quotations 9d. to 18d. **Lignum Vitæ**—Good parcels of Jamaica would have found buyers at £3 to £7 per ton.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—No change. American is quoted at 7½d., and Water White at 8½d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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## The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.,

February 8th, 1915.

*It will greatly facilitate the work of the Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee if those members who have not already paid their subscription for the current year, which became due on January 1st, will kindly do so either direct or through the Hon. Correspondents at their earliest convenience. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR cannot be sent to those in arrear of subscription after a reasonable time has elapsed.*

### A CHANCE FOR LOGWOOD.

**T**HE members of the St. Thomas Planters' Association in Jamaica are not unnaturally rather disturbed at the low prices ruling for logwood. In view of the cessation of the exports of aniline dyes from Germany, which has practically the monopoly of such products, it was hoped that prices for West Indian dye-woods would at least remain firm. So far from this being the case, however, the price of logwood in Jamaica at the present moment is only £2 2s. per ton of 21 cwts. for "straight" logwood, that is to say the actual wood, and £1 14s. per ton for logwood roots, as compared with £2 11s. and £2 5s. respectively, the prices prevailing two years ago. It appears that, unfortunately for the producer, the

dye manufacturing industry of the old world is most carefully organised; indeed it is practically a trust and to that extent it may be said to control the situation. With regard to the logwood industry generally the practice for very many years after its inauguration was to ship the wood itself to Europe, where the process of manufacturing dye from it was carried out. Within the last twenty years, however, a few logwood factories have sprung up in Jamaica, where the wood is treated and the dye extracted from it by a process, the secret of which is so jealously guarded that, as we can recall from a visit we endeavoured to make some years ago, one of these factories is surrounded by a high stockade which no one not in the swim could penetrate. If we are correctly informed, the dye manufacturing "trust" is closely interested in these logwood factories, and, as its members are the only bidders for the logwood in bulk, they naturally see to it that the price which they pay for the wood does not exceed that at which it is sold to the local factories. Such is the situation, and the only immediate remedy, as far as we can see, is for the growers of logwood to combine, and to raise their price to the local logwood factories. We believe that if they were to do so, logwood, which two years ago was selling at a higher price than it is fetching now in spite of the shortage of dyes would approach more reasonable figures. Jamaica is by far the largest exporter of logwood within the Empire, exporting as she does over 50,000 tons every year, besides somewhere over 22,000 packages of logwood extract; the production in British Honduras which has fallen from 11,000 tons, the figure at which it stood some years ago to 3,266 tons coming second. It would seem then that the solution of the present trouble must lie with the owners of logwood trees in Jamaica themselves, and we hope that the St. Thomas Planters' Association may be able to take the initiative in the matter. The most effective way to meet the trust would be by combining among themselves.

### THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

**E**VENTS have already justified the strong objection taken by the West India Committee and the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool to the recent alteration in the contract time-table of the West Indian transatlantic mail service. Dealing with this subject in December last we pointed out that, apart from the three working days available under the new arrangement for answering and dealing with correspondence in London being altogether inadequate, no margin was left for con-

tingencies. We were assured that the mails would reach Falmouth punctually on Saturday, and be delivered in London on Monday morning; but already at the close of the second voyage under the new arrangements the mail steamer has arrived at Falmouth nearly two days late, thus cutting down the time available for answering letters to two days in London, and barely a day in Scotland. We quite recognise the difficulties which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have had to face through being moved from their base at Southampton, and through so many of its officers and men having joined the forces. But these very circumstances should, one would think, have satisfied the directors and the Postmaster-General that three scheduled working days between the arrival of the ocean steamer at Falmouth and her departure from Tilbury would be quite insufficient in view of the many delays likely to occur from such causes when a state of war exists.

#### THE COCOA PROHIBITION WITHDRAWN.

**A**FTER being in force for less than a month, the Proclamation dated January 8th prohibiting the export of cocoa from this country was, we are glad to state, revoked on February 3rd. Only cocoa powder, that is to say the manufactured product, now remains under embargo. No good purpose will be served by criticising the Government over their action in this matter, which to the lay mind certainly seems to have been unnecessarily vacillating. We must, on the other hand, be thankful that the reasonableness of the arguments against prohibiting the exports of cacao which were set out at some length in our issue of December 15th last, and submitted to the Government by the West India Committee, have been accepted. These arguments were also laid before MR. RUNCIMAN by a deputation representative of all interested in the cocoa industry from the producer to the manufacturer, which was organised by the London Chamber of Commerce, whose prompt action in the matter is deserving of praise. With the sources of cacao as widely distributed as they are, it was at the outset certain that prohibition alone would not have brought about the desired result of stopping supplies reaching enemy countries, and it is to be hoped that the last has now been heard of it. The only result of the embargo seems to have been to depress the price of cacao, which has since more than made good the lost ground.

#### CANE OR BEET?

**T**HE subject of the relative food values of cane and beet sugar has, we notice, again been raised, this time in California, where the beet sugar proprietors are starting a propagandist campaign with the view of convincing the public that these two kinds of sugar, when refined, have identically the same values for food purposes. DR. WILEY, the late chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the United States, is quoted as having stated that "refined

sugar whether it is made from cane, beet, corn or any other product is the same chemically and physically." Had Dr. Wiley used the term "sucrose" instead of "refined" sugar, we should have had no exception to take to this statement. Up to the present it is recognised that sucrose obtained from the sugar cane has, in its pure form, the same chemical composition, exhibits the same chemical action, crystallises in the same form, and behaves in the same manner to polarised light as the sucrose from the beet. It is true that some chemical authorities, with the idea probably that there does exist some difference between the sugars from these sources, style that from the sugar beet "betose," confining the term "sucrose" to the product of the sugar cane; but up to the present time, as mentioned above, no physical or chemical difference has been discovered between the two products. But DR. WILEY in using the term "refined" sugar, traverses other ground, and lays his statement open to great objection. Is he prepared to state that from a dietetic point of view commercial refined sugar is identical with pure sucrose and that there are no residual impurities from the raw sugar left in the refined sugar? As we have over and over again pointed out in these columns, the question of the relative value of cane and beet sugars does not lie in the sugar proper, but in the other bodies present with it. British sugar consumers are, from long association, conversant with the rich aroma and lusciousness of raw cane sugars, but the repulsive smell and "frightfulness" of raw beet are unknown to them. In both cases the refining process eliminates the impurities to a great or less extent, but commercial refined sugars cannot be entirely free from them. The quantity may be so small as not to be recognisable by chemical analysis, but it is there all the same, and no one who has had an opportunity of comparing the two classes of sugar in their raw state could possibly believe that commercial refined sugars from the two sources could be identical. It may be said that, if the residual impurities are so small, they can have no material effect upon the value of the sugar. The trend of modern scientific views is not in this direction. Recent researches go to show that minute, hitherto ignored constituents of food are of the greatest value in dietetics. Thus, the coating of the rice grain contains in minute quantities a body so important that a diet of polished rice produces the nerve disease, beri-beri, whereas a diet of unpolished rice does not. It is now recognised also that there exists in milk, in proportion so small as to be unrecognisable chemically, a body which is essential for its satisfactory assimilation by infants. It is the presence of these "accessories" which, according to modern dietetics, are necessary for the realisation of the full value of the food. The aroma and flavouring bodies of cane juice which raw cane sugars contain are known to be of the greatest value as palate stimulants, while those of raw beet sugar are, to say the least of it, impossible. Is it not perfectly rational, therefore, to conclude that refined sugar



prepared from raw cane sugar, which still contains some of the special characteristics of it, must be better from a dietetic point of view than refined sugar prepared from raw beet? DR. GOULSTON'S valuable results from treatment of some forms of heart disease by sugar, in which cane sugar is insisted upon, SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON'S emphatic insistence upon cane sugar, even when refined, for Antarctic food purposes, the hostile attitude of bees towards beet sugar, although it is only fair to say that American sugar producers deny it, all go to show that there is an important difference between cane and beet sugar in favour of the former. As PROFESSOR CARMODY recently stated before the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad, "the public have not been told that beet sugar is not fit for consumption unless the natural impurities are reduced by manufacturing processes to a very small percentage." The results of the war, by which cane sugar has been almost entirely substituted for beet sugar in this country will doubtless bring home to the minds of the consumers in a practical form how far more valuable cane sugar is than beet as an article of diet.

### THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

#### Passports for Members.

Shipping Companies and the Government Embarkation Officials insist upon documentary evidence of nationality being produced by all passengers before they can book their passages or embark, and as it has been found that passports serve this purpose best, intending passengers are recommended to furnish themselves with them. The Government have very wisely made the regulations regarding the issue of these documents more drastic. Full particulars can be obtained from the West India Committee, whose Secretary, being a Barrister-at-law, is entitled to, and will be glad to, verify the necessary declarations by members of the Committee who are applicants for passports.

AMONG the outward passengers in the R.M.S.P. *Essequibo* on Thursday will be Mr. Julian Rust and his wife, who, we are glad to say, is now restored to health after a long illness, and will be welcomed by many friends in Trinidad, and also Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Greg, of Dominica.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### After Six Months.

Both sides, no doubt, are taking stock of the situation with a view to the future in the light of events since the first week in August last. The Allies are full of hope. They broke the Prussian military spell at the Marne, and have foiled the original German plan of campaign on both fronts. They are united in spirit and are determined to fight together to a finish. England is supplying France and Russia with all the munitions of war they are unable to manufacture for themselves owing to the exigencies of mobilisation, and is creating armies on a scale calculated to open the road to Berlin when they are thrown on the Continent. Finally her Navy has established mastery of the seas with a completeness the most sanguine never anticipated.

The Germans on their side have less reason for pessimism than the public is led to suppose. Their fleet is practically intact, though its inferiority to the British Navy forces it for the present to remain in protected waters. They are in possession of Belgium and Northern France and a considerable part of Russia, which means that they are fighting beyond their own borders. The most of these successes is made by those in authority. But when the Allies regain the conquered territory, and carry the war into Germany, what of the moral of her people then? One rather doubts that they have been disciplined to meeting great and constant reverses. Moreover, Germany and Austria-Hungary, Austria and Hungary, not to speak of Turkey in relation to them all, are far from being united either in spirit or in aim. As for their resources they will begin to shrink just when England is ready to put her almost limitless resources into the scale. Whatever the German people may think, the German Government must be racked with anxiety.

### East and West.

All along the Western front fierce fighting has been reported at different points, but the position is little altered. When the Germans attack in unexpected strength, as at Soissons or La Bassee recently, they aim at securing the control of a line of communications or at retaking trenches which the Allies have captured.

In the East, the Russians, while holding the Germans in the centre, are extending their wings. In East Prussia they are once more moving on Intersburg, a railway junction of the first importance. In the south the front is no longer Galician, but Carpathian, and the Austrians are unable to hold the passes. If the German reinforcements do not succeed in staying the advance of the Russians the plains of Hungary may see the turning point of the war.

The Turks have not been allowed to enjoy their occupation of Tabriz for long. They have been driven out by the Russians, who have defeated them

at Sofiam, twenty-five miles distant, and forced them to retreat. In the North, the Turks are said to have received reinforcements, though no one knows how. If true, it may account for the weakening of the Russian offensive in Caucasia. That there will be more fighting in this region may be taken for granted, if with no better prospects of success. The German text-book strategy only involves the Turks in disaster. They would be more effective if left to themselves. The difficulties of Enver Bey and his dupes and adventurers increase daily as their military failure becomes more manifest.

### Heavy Fighting in Poland.

The Germans are making an effort to break through to Warsaw as determined as their effort to break through to Calais in November. It is said that they have 80,000 men, besides great masses of artillery, on a front between six and seven miles long, one report speaking of them as if they were "as thick as locusts." But the Russians are not only holding their own and inflicting very heavy losses on the enemy, but they have crossed the Bzura, where it bends northward below Soochaczew, and have taken two lines of German trenches. Even had the enemy's bull-headed rush succeeded it would not have carried him far because the Russian main position is several miles in the rear of the present fighting which is as desperate as any recorded in the war. It has been going on for days, and is still continuing.

### The North Sea Fight.

The account of the North Sea fight is stirring reading. The full German losses are not yet known for certain, but the sinking of the *Blücher* is admitted, and Admiral Beatty reports that two more of the enemy's armoured cruisers were badly injured. Of this type of fighting ship the Germans have now lost five of the nine on blue water when the war began. The survivors, who were rescued by the British light cruisers and destroyers in contrast to German callousness to our drowning men in the Chili engagement, state that the *Katberg* also went down. There would have been more survivors, but a huge Zeppelin and a number of aeroplanes began to drop bombs on the rescuers with murderous intent, so that they had to desist. The losses on our side were relatively light, 29 casualties, some damage to the battle-cruiser *Lion*, but for which the victory would have been even more decisive than it was, and to the destroyer *Meteor*.

As in all the naval battles of the war up to the present the winning side had the advantage in fighting strength. Seamanship and courage will not avail against superior numbers and weight of metal. Another essential factor is equality, if not superiority, in speed. The North Sea battle was not only a brilliant success from the tactical point of view, but from the strategical point of view as well, since it prevented a raid on the East Coast, a task on which the German squadron was bound. In forcing action

on the flying ships of the enemy, and in stopping short of the mine area in the excitement of victory, Admiral Beatty revealed two of the finest qualities of command, initiative and restraint.

Owing to the enthusiasm resulting from the North Sea Battle, the loss, with all hands, of the armed and commissioned merchant vessel *Likaor* off Ireland passed almost unnoticed until the list of officers and men who lost their lives in her was published. The vessel was formerly well-known to West Indians as the R.M.S.P. *Arvalo*. Many of her crew came from Newfoundland.

### The First Skirmish in the Suez Canal.

An advance party of the Turkish forces, which are preparing to invade Egypt by way of the Sinai Peninsula, attempted to bridge the Suez Canal near Ismailia, half-way between Port Said and Suez. They were allowed to proceed unmolested for some time. Then they were attacked by Territorials, Australians and Indians, and beaten off with the loss of all their materiel. Their object, no doubt, was to cut or damage communications. It was thought that the Egyptian adventure would be abandoned: its madness is so plain, but the German taskmaster has spoken, and it is to be.

### German Submarine in the Irish Sea.

U 21, which sank the *Pathfinder* early in September last, and two merchant vessels near Havre in November, has carried out a series of daring raids on British ships in the Irish Sea. Three carrying cargo were stopped and blown up, and the Irish cross-Channel passenger boat *Graphic*, which was pursued, only escaped through the good seamanship of her captain. Perhaps, because the German sailor has a wholesome respect for the British Navy, the commander of the submarine behaved in the traditional manner of the best pirate captains. He gave cigars to the crews of the *Ben Cruachan*, *Linda Blanche*, and the *Kilcoan*, all engaged in the coasting trade, allowed them ten minutes to get into their boats, and then scuttled their ships. The public are disagreeably surprised that a hostile submarine should have penetrated so far from the German base on the Belgian Coast, about 1,000 miles, when her radius of action is 2,000. Naturally she must get supplies through some friendly source.

But Grand Admiral von Tirpitz will be surprised to hear that the volume of shipping passing in and out of the Mersey is as large as ever. The submarine being a relatively slow vessel she can be outmanœuvred by an ordinary merchantman, which can increase her speed in an emergency. The Belfast cross-Channel service has been temporarily suspended, and some of the sailings from Dublin.

### More "Frightfulness."

Off Havre, the British merchant vessels *Tokomaru* and *Icaria* were torpedoed, crew and all, by a German submarine without warning. A protest against these outrages has been issued by the French Ministry of Marine. The British hospital ship *Asturias*



Photograph by

**SOME GRATEFUL RECIPIENTS.**

Wills, Tottenham



Photograph by

**A CONSIGNMENT FROM TRINIDAD AT PADDINGTON STATION.**

F. W. Wood, Ltd.

**WEST INDIAN FRUIT FOR OUR WOUNDED TROOPS.**

was attacked by a submarine, but, fortunately, escaped. Nothing so inhuman has been done by the Germans on the high seas since they disabled the *Rohilla* crowded with Belgian refugees, all of whom would have been drowned but for local British aid.

### Food Problems.

With that forethought and thoroughness, which distinguishes her in national organisation in war as well as in peace, Germany is conserving her food supplies. Wheaten bread is reserved for the sick, and from February 1st corn will be doled out to districts on a *per capita* basis. The most minute regulations are being put into force to avoid waste. That being so the *Wilhelmina*, a vessel loaded with supplies of food in New York, and destined for Hamburg, is likely to raise a new international complication. The plea is that they are intended for non-combatants, which is absurd, seeing that Germany is a nation in arms, whose Government undertakes to feed both the belligerent and the non-belligerent population. The distinction between the two, as between contraband and non-contraband, is perceived only by lawyers, whose super-subtleties have so dangerously weakened British naval rights by paper arrangements which war has rendered worthless.

Unfortunately, this country, though the enemy is destroying British ships and commerce with submarines, raiding defenceless towns, and killing innocent civilians, rigorously blockading Russia, and removing foodstuffs and factories from Belgium and Northern France to Germany, still clings to the idea of making war gentle. For this reason the enemy is able to get raw materials and supplies generally through neutral countries, and food is about the same price in England as in Germany, though the British Navy controls the seas. In the Napoleonic conflict the difference in the cost of commodities on either side of the Channel was very great. Sugar, for instance, being sold for sixpence a pound in this country, while in France it was six shillings. If the Navy is to perform one of the main functions for which it exists the sources of Germany's supply must be dried up. As it already commands all the approaches to her coast an effective blockade thereof even under modern conditions, is quite practicable.

### The Ship Purchase Bill.

The prospects of this measure are less favourable than they were. The speech of Senator Lodge, who pointed out that it would bring the United States measurably within distance of war, not with England alone, but with France, Russia and Japan, has had a weighty effect. His view is practically the British one, that, by purchasing German ships interned in American harbours, which has been admitted would be one of the consequences of the Bill, if passed as it stands, the United States would be handing over between £7,000,000 and £8,000,000 to aid the belligerent which has been swept from the seas. But that would be only the beginning of the trouble, since

the ships would be used to enable Germany to hold out in the war. In spite of the President's pressure, there has been an unexpected defection of Democrats. An appeal to Republicans for support, will meet with no response, unless the Bill specifically prohibits the State purchase of interned vessels.

(To be continued.)

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS FOR THE WOUNDED.

On another page in the present issue will be found pictures of one of the consignments of Trinidad fruit presented to the War Office, and a typical scene in the Prince of Wales' Hospital at Tottenham showing to what use it is being put.

Since reference was last made in these columns to the West Indian gifts which the West India Committee is distributing on behalf of the Army Council among the hospitals receiving sick and wounded soldiers, no further shipments have been received from the Jamaica and the Dominica Agricultural Societies owing to the absence of shipping facilities; but the R.M.S. *Essequibo* brought 225 cases, and the R.M.S. *Danube* 151 cases from the Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee. These are being dealt with as before, some being sent to hospitals direct, and others to the Red Cross Society for distribution in France and Flanders. It is not too much to say that the fruit is a perfect godsend to the men—and especially to those who are too seriously wounded to permit of their being transferred from the hospitals abroad to this country. Thus Mrs. Reid writes from No. 13 General Hospital, which now occupies the Casino at Boulogne: "Please when writing thank the planters of Trinidad from me, and also for all the patients in the hospitals who will receive the oranges. They are a perfect godsend here as one cannot even buy oranges in Boulogne, and the few there are are very small and tasteless. The ones the planters sent are very juicy and arrived in splendid condition. The wounded men are always asking us for oranges, as they say they are so refreshing especially as we can get so few vegetables and no fruit at all. I think it is very good indeed of the planters to send us such a nice present, and I hope you will let them know how much it is appreciated." Such expressions of thanks will be very gratifying to Mr. Randolph Rust and Mr. L. M. Hobson and their friends in Trinidad, and will go far towards repaying them for the trouble and care they have devoted to collecting the fruit and sending it over. It is hoped that in a later CIRCULAR it may be possible to publish some pictures of similar gifts from Dominica—whose planters were the first to send over fruit for the sick and wounded—and Jamaica.

### Succades and Sweets for the Indians.

Mrs. Grahame Lang kindly sent a case of preserves which have been forwarded to the London Hospital and the Officers' Hospital at Fishmongers'

Hall, and a further case of preserves and jellies, collected by Miss McHugh among the women of St. Lucia, has been sent to the British East Africa Field Force Fund in response to their earnest appeal for sweetmeats for the Indian troops fighting there. A case of ginger sugar made by Mrs. McNee of Jamaica has also been sent to the same quarter. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the West India Committee are endeavouring to secure for our Indian troops in British East Africa some of the cane sugar sent over from Barbados, of which they are in urgent need.

The *Danube* also brought 7 cases of preserves, made by the ladies of Trinidad, and a case of books for the soldiers and sailors, collected and sent by Mr. W. E. Norris in response to Mrs. Alec Tweedie's appeal.

Some oranges have also been sent to our wounded allies, the plucky Belgians, many of whom are now in this country recovering from their wounds. To show their gratitude the following letter from one of their number, M. Pierre Meir, may be published.

In name of all my comrades the Belgian soldiers just now treated in the Scoens Convalescent Home in Five Ashes, Sussex, I beg you to accept our best thanks for the delicious oranges you sent us last week.

We are very pleased to see how from all parts of the British Empire people take an interest in the fate of Belgium and its soldiers, victims of Germany's treachery. I repeat, we are so happy in admiring the zeal of English people to relieve our exile, as you, Trinidad planters, you did so generously. As much we hate Germany's bandits as much we estimate and we thank England and his admirable people.

I hope, dear sirs, you will kindly receive the insurance of our deepest thankfulness.

#### The "Gleaner's" "Give a Cigar Fund."

While the sick and wounded have received special attention from their friends in the West Indies, those who are still fighting our battles have not been forgotten. For their benefit Mr. M. de Cordova, the manager of the *Daily Gleaner*, opened a fund in Jamaica called the "Give a Cigar Fund," towards the close of last year, and as a result a goodly supply of Conchas Especiales from the factory of B. & J. B. Machado, and of cheroots from the Jamaica Tobacco Company, have arrived in this country in first-rate condition, and will be shortly despatched by the West India Committee to the front; but further reference to this gift will be made later when the allocation to the various regiments have been made, and the arrangements for the despatch of the cigars through the Military Forwarding Officer have been completed.

#### Lady French's Appeal.

In response to Lady French's appeal, in these columns, Mrs. Brodie of Grenada has sent over two cases of woollen socks, mufflers, helmets, and body-belts for the troops, made by Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. O'Neale, Miss A. M. Smith and herself, and the lady parishioners of the Rev. S. M. Hawthorne, Wesleyan Minister, Port-of-Spain. The response to

this appeal would have been more general but for the difficulty of obtaining the necessary khaki and grey wool in the West Indies.

## SUGAR AND THE WAR.

### Lecture at the Royal Society of Arts.

On the 2nd February, Lord Desborough presided at a Meeting of the Royal Society of Arts, when Mr. E. R. Davson delivered a lecture on "Sugar and the War."

The lecturer first sketched the history of sugar since the time of the Napoleonic Wars, and described the rivalry which existed between cane and beet sugar from that time to the present day. After pointing out that 700,000 acres of land were devoted to producing sugar annually in Germany and Austria for the English market, and that about 350,000 able bodied men were employed in this, he showed that up to the outbreak of the present war 75 per cent. of the beet imports of this country, or 60 per cent. of its total imports, valued at £15,000,000, came from Germany and Austria. At the outbreak of hostilities, people assumed that there would be a shortage of sugar supplies to the extent of 7¼ million tons, but actually there was only a shortage of two millions. The price, therefore, rose to an unjustifiable height last August, but the situation was serious, owing to the possibility of corners, and the action of the Government in buying up stocks, and taking over the sugar trade, could not be criticised until they had completed the transaction.

The Government's action in commandeering the crops of the colonies was a sound one imperially, but required the corollary that if such sources of supply were to be looked to in time of war they must not be neglected in time of peace.

### Our dependence on the foreigner.

The Royal Commission on Food Supplies in Time of War in 1905 had condemned our former dependence for 60 per cent. of our cotton and of our wheat supplies on a single source; which was interesting as we were at present dependent for 60 per cent. of our sugar supplies on practically a single foreign source, and, therefore, their condemnation must also apply to sugar. The remedy lay in growing sugar in the Empire, as the friends of to-day might be the enemies of to-morrow, and no matter how large our Fleet, we could not bring foreign supplies to this country in time of war if the foreigners would not sell them.

A commencement had been made in beet growing in this country, and this had the benefit of a protection of 1s. 10d. per cwt. Although, so far, not very successful, its advocates believed that the continuance of this protection, together with a State grant for the establishment of a model factory, would give a great impetus to this industry. Turning to the

colonies, the West Indies and British Guiana formerly produced a much larger quantity of sugar than at present, the diminution being due partly to the people now growing a variety of products and partly to the effects, which had not yet passed away, of Continental bounties. In the West Indies were many derelict factories and sugar lands given over to catch crops, the restoration of which depended not so much on the West Indian planter as on the British nation. An increase of production could also be obtained in Mauritius, and there were great possibilities of sugar growing in West Africa, especially Southern Nigeria, and in British East Africa and Egypt. But encouragement must be given to capital in order to accomplish this, and the lecturer suggested the remitting of the sugar duty on colonial sugar for a term of not less than ten years. He also urged the abrogation of the clause in the Brussels Convention by which England agreed not to give its colonies preferential treatment over foreign countries as, under existing circumstances, foreign interference with England's domestic relations with its colonies should not be tolerated. He urged that prompt and sympathetic consideration should be given to the problem and pointed out that the Colonies were trying to help England to their utmost power in the war, and it would be an injustice for England after the war to give its custom again to Germany and Austria, and so help these enemies on to prosperity once more at the expense of the Colonies.

A telegram was read from Lord Denbigh, President of the British Beet Association, urging that the Government should prevent free imports of sugar from Germany after the war, and a discussion took place afterwards in which Mr. C. Sandbach Parker made an interesting speech, and the speakers unanimously approved of the views expressed by the lecturer.

#### Chemists and our sugar supplies.

The question of the future of the sugar industry has also been engaging the attention of the Society of Chemical Industry. At a meeting of the London Section of that body on February 1st, Mr. J. J. Eastick outlined a scheme for securing the development of an Imperial sugar industry. Briefly, the steps which he advocated were (1) the continuance of the difference, or its equivalent, between the duties of Customs and Excise which have existed during the last three years until the production of sugar grown in the United Kingdom for direct consumption exceeds 100,000 tons per annum, home-grown sugar then to receive the same preference as Colonial-grown sugar; (2) Colonial-grown sugar to have a preference in the British tariff of not less than one-half of the present duty; (3) all bounties, subsidies or cartels to be counterbalanced by an equivalent duty; and (4) manufacturers who use sugar in their industries to be offered similar terms to those offered by the Government to users of coal-tar dyes. Mr. Eastick said that in formulating this scheme of action, he had endeavoured to reconcile the con-

flicting demands of Colonial cane growers, British sugar beet growers, manufacturers who used sugar in their operations and the British refiner and consumer. It would, he thought, give fair play to both home and colonial-grown sugar. The little extra protection at the start to home-grown beet would enable the industry to be put in going order, and then beet and cane could fight their economic battle on a perfectly neutral basis.

Mr. Eastick moved that the council of the society should petition the Government to take such steps as would tend to the permanent production and refining within the Empire of sugar sufficient for the Empire's consumption. After an interesting discussion Captain Courthope, M.P., took part, the discussion was adjourned until next meeting.

### THE CANTLEY BEET FACTORY.

#### The Price offered for Roots.

In the hope of inducing farmers to grow beets for the Cantley Sugar Factory, the Anglo-Netherland Sugar Syndicate have issued a circular offering improved terms. In this they state that they have decided to offer a sliding scale of prices based on the average selling price of sugar, the minimum price for beets to be 25s. per ton. This, they point out, practically amounts to a scheme for profit-sharing, and gives the farmer a direct interest in the business of this Corporation. The scale of prices for next season will accordingly be:—

Average sale price of Sugar per cwt.	Price for Beet per ton	Average sale price of Sugar per cwt.	Price for Beet per ton.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
19 0 (or under)	25 0	23 6	29 6
19 6	25 6	24 0	30 0
20 0	26 0	24 6	30 6
20 6	26 6	25 0	31 0
21 0	27 0	25 6	31 6
21 6	27 6	26 0	32 0
22 0	28 0	26 6	32 6
22 6	28 6	27 0 (approx. to-day's price)	33 0
23 0	29 0		

and so on in corresponding proportion.

The price of 25s. per ton will be paid in accordance with the terms of contract, and the balance of value accruing in favour of growers from the sale of sugar will be paid as soon as possible after completing the sale of our manufactured product. Any grower who has already contracted with the factory for next season's beet will be given all the benefits of the revised conditions of beet purchases.

[In this connection it is interesting to note that for the crop 1913-14, when the average price of 88° beet was in the neighbourhood of 9s. 4d. per cwt., the price paid for the beets was 23s. per ton. For the 1914-15 crop now concluded, the price paid was 25s.]

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Scard, is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1s.

## IN PRAISE OF WEST INDIAN RUM.

### A well-known Journalist's Views.

The use of rum in the dietary of our troops at the front has led to much public attention having been drawn to this form of alcohol. The *Evening News* of the 28th of January had a particularly interesting and illuminating article on the subject from the pen of Mr. Arthur Machen. As to the use of rum in the trenches, he says:—

"We are at war, and now and again our soldiers tell us stories of the terrors of the trenches, and of the hideous discomforts of their life therein. They write of snow and rain and freezing slush, and of icy water breast high; and their only word of comfort is that they are nobly fed, and that their ration of rum enables them and sustains them. I should be sorry for that sergeant who should come round at the appointed hour with a ration of that once-bepraised barley water, in place of the expected rum. The best that he could hope for would be a swift death. For the fact is that soldiers, weary and cold, wet and worn, can take nothing better than this generous and pure spirit."

Among the words of an eminent doctor to Mr. Machen were these:—

"You must remember that rum stimulates not only by its alcohol, but by its ethers and aldehydes. These exercise a general diffusive stimulation which makes the tired man feel less tired. And note this: if a man thinks he feels less tired, then he is less tired. . . . In my opinion the cold, wet, tired man is very much benefited by a small dose of alcoholic stimulant; and the more moderate his previous use of it the greater the benefit will be. This stimulant is preferably administered warm, and rum is an admirable form in which to take it."

"People who have come back from the trenches have acquired a taste for rum," Mr. Machen continues, quoting the representative of a well-known firm of wine merchants, and he goes on to speak of old and curious Jamaica rums that were to be obtained by the learned in this matter. "There is, it seems, a rum of 1851, which delayed in the wood for fifty years, purging away its grosser and more peccant parts. A rare drink this, but who is to have it? Ghostly admirals, I would say; Commodore Trunnon of 'Peregrine Pickle,' the captain of Richard Middleton's 'Ghost Ship,' Morgan the Buccaneer, good men and bad men who have done wondrous things upon the seas; such a noble drink is sure too good for mere mortality."

"They told me," he further says, "singular things concerning rum in Seething Lane, by the Tower, where there is an association which concerns itself particularly with West Indian products."

"Demerara rum, these gentlemen contended, is inferior to Jamaica rum, because in the former place sugar is the main object, rum a by-product, while in Jamaica the reverse is the case. And they spoke delicately and reverently of the ethers that give good rum its fragrance and its merit, and now for the

first time I heard the root of the matter concerning that pineapple rum wherein the red-nosed man, Stiggins, did so grievously exceed. This pineapple flavour, it seems, pertains to the best rum by nature; it is the flavour of 'butyric ether.' I told how the publicans were wont formerly to hang pineapples in nets in their rum punchions.

"Yes; but that was merely to enhance the flavour."

"And I was told secrets of the fermentation; how these subtle ethers will only pass over in a tropical climate—you could not make good rum in England of imported molasses—how one plantation excels another in its peculiar ferment, even as in Burgundy *clos* excels *clos* in the nobility of its juice."

He tells the tale of the Liverpool tavern keeper:

"He looked through his little window on his bar, and said:

"There go the brandy people; they are good for twelve years. There are the whisky people; nine or ten years will settle them. And there are the rum people; I don't know what will stop them."

Mr. Machen concludes his article with a recommendation which should be taken to heart by all.

"But if anyone, not a warrior, not a sailor, untossed by savage seas, unvexed by shells would relish rum, let him take a bottle, and add to it an equal measure of green tea that has not been brewed more than five minutes. Add also the juice of six lemons and of three oranges, add golden and amber rings of lemon peel and orange peel, and let the sugar—some twenty lumps—have been rubbed on the rind of the lemons.

"Laetaberis, you—and your friends—will be glad, as Apuleius declares, introducing the Twelve Books of his *Metamorphoses*, commonly called the Golden Ass."

It is not, however, generally known that our soldiers in the trenches get but small quantities of rum. Every other day each man in the firing line is given three tablespoonfuls, amounting to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  oz., or a little more than two wineglassesful per week.

## THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The many "repeat orders" for the West India Committee Map of the West Indies, particulars of which will be found in the advertisement columns of the present issue, that have been received show what a useful purpose it is filling. A copy should be in every house and every school and public institution throughout the West Indies.

The map—the size of which is 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 10 inches—can be seen both mounted and in sheet at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The reduced price to members of the West India Committee is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below.

Aamansen, 2nd Lieutenant E. F., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Andrews, 2nd Lieutenant L. H. C., Trinidad Local Forces, (on Active Service).  
 Austin, Major G. B., Major Commanding Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Baker, Major A. H., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Baker, Major A. H., Commanding Trinidad Cadet Corps, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Bertrand, Walter, (of Grenada), 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
 Bowen, Major A. S., Trinidad Light Horse, Hon. A.D.C. to the Commander in Chief of the local forces.  
 Bowen, Major A. S., Trinidad Light Horse, (Local Reserve of Officers), Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Boyd, Captain T., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Buchanan, Lieut.-Colonel, (son-in-law of Mr. R. M. Cocking of Kingston, Jamaica), The West India Regiment.  
 Buchanan, Lieutenant H. B., (Arden, Roxburgh, Tobago), 7th Battalion Black Watch.  
 Bury, Captain F., British Guiana Militia Reserves.  
 Cameron, Lieutenant H. A., British Guiana Militia Reserves.  
 Carr, Captain E. T. W., Staff Officer, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Cavenaugh, Lieutenant H. J. L., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Clare, Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel H. L., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Clarke, Surgeon-Lieutenant A. J., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Cleare, Captain L. D., British Guiana Militia.  
 Connell, Captain E. B., 1st Battalion, Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Costelloe, Lieutenant M., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Couchman, Cyril, (grandson of Mr. R. F. H. Webb, late partner of Messrs. J. R. Templeman and Co., West India Merchants), Royal Naval Division.  
 Cousins, 2nd Lieutenant D. S., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Cox, Lieutenant C. E. L., British Guiana Artillery.  
 Crickshank, Lieutenant C., Volunteer Defence Force, St. Vincent.  
 Cummings, (Englishman's Bay, Tobago), 2nd Battalion London Scottish.  
 Cunningham, J. W., (son of the late Mr. John Cunningham, of Trinidad), 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company.  
 Dorwent, 2nd Lieutenant H. E., Assistant Supply Officer, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Davis, Lieutenant C. G., British Guiana Militia Reserves.  
 Davies, Rev. H. R., Chaplain, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 De Boissiere, Major A. H. W., Major Commanding Trinidad Mounted Infantry. (Local Reserve of Officers). Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Dean, Lieutenant G. C., Adjutant Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 De Gannes, Surgeon-Lieutenant J. L. F., Trinidad Light Horse, (Local Reserve of Officers), Trinidad Local Forces.  
 De Pass, Captain H. S., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 De Rinzy, Colonel G. C., Commandant of the Local Forces, British Guiana.  
 Doorly, Rev. M. S., V.D., Chaplain, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Drayton, Lieutenant Conrad Hampden, (son of Mr. P. H. Ernest Drayton, and grandson of the late Rev. P. T. Drayton, proprietor of Woodbourne Estate, Barbados). Army Service Corps.

Eakin, Surgeon-Major J. M., V.D., Medical Officer, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Eccles, 2nd Lieutenant W. H., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Eccles, Lieutenant V., (son of the late Mr. John Eccles, of Orange Grove Estate, Trinidad), King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment.  
 Ellis, 2nd Lieutenant R. C., Trinidad Local Forces, (on Active Service).  
 Farnon, Surgeon-Captain C.M.S., Medical Officer, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Ferreira, Captain M., V.D., 1st Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Field, 2nd Lieutenant Arthur P., (son of Mr. J. H. Field, of Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd., of British Guiana), 10th Battalion City of London Regiment.  
 Forwood, W. D. Peplow (son of Captain W. Peplow Forwood of Kingston, Jamaica), Army Service Corps. Motor Transport Division.  
 Frame, Lieutenant G. Macgregor, (Cameron, Roxburgh, Tobago), 3rd Battalion Gordon Highlanders.  
 Fraser, Captain Alex., Volunteer Defence Force, St. Vincent.  
 Fraser, Captain P. L., Trinidad Light Horse, (Local Reserve of Officers), Galloper to the Commandant, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Gooden-Chisholm, 2nd Lieutenant H. H., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Goodwin, Captain F., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Grant, Captain Edmund P. F. G., (son of Mr. J. Glasgow Grant of Barbados), Flag Captain to Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, K.C.B., C.V.O., R.M.S. *Marlborough*.  
 Grant, Major A. S., D.S.O., (son of Mr. J. Glasgow Grant, of Barbados), Chief Transport Officer with General Headquarters Staff of the Army.  
 Greaves, Surgeon-Lieutenant F. W. Trinidad Mounted Infantry, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Gregory, E., (son of Mr. C. R. Gregory, of Santa Cruz, Jamaica), 2nd Canadian Contingent.  
 Gregory, G., (son of Mr. C. R. Gregory, of Santa Cruz, Jamaica), 2nd Canadian Contingent.  
 Greig, Major W., Trinidad Local Reserve of Officers. Unattached. Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Grieve, Lieutenant A. R., Trinidad Artillery Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Hahn, Captain D., Trinidad Local Reserve of Officers. Unattached. Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Hampden King, C., Acting Staff Officer, British Guiana Local Forces.  
 Harragin, Captain A. B. A., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Harragin, 2nd Lieutenant W. T., Cadet Officer, Queen's Royal College Company, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Harries, Tom, (Roxburgh, Tobago), 2nd Battalion London Scottish.  
 Hatt, H., (son of Mr. J. H. Hatt, Scarborough, Tobago), Canadian Contingent.  
 Havelock, Lieutenant E. W., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Hazel, 2nd Lieutenant A. E., Volunteer Defence Force, St. Vincent.  
 Hebert, Dr. (son-in-law of Mr. Arthur Westmoreland, of St. Mary, Jamaica), Indian Medical Service.  
 Hill, 2nd Lieutenant C. H., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Hill, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant C. A., (Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd), 21st County of London Regiment (1st Surrey Rifles) Territorials.  
 Hobson, 2nd Lieutenant E. R. C., Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Innes, Lieutenant J., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 Jardine, Lieutenant D. B., 1st Battalion, Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.  
 King, Lieutenant C. H., British Guiana Artillery.  
 King, Lieutenant M. C. H., British Guiana Militia Reserves.  
 Knox, Lieut. W. L., Trinidad Local Reserve of Officers. Unattached.  
 Lack, Captain E. W., Trinidad Local Reserve of Officers. Unattached. Trinidad Local Forces.



- Laing, Lieutenant I. H., British Guiana Artillery.
- Laubie, Major A. R., V.D., 1st Battalion, Major Commanding Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, (Local Reserve of Officers), Trinidad Local Forces.
- Lange, Lieut.-Colonel A. P., Trinidad Local Reserve of Officers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Lange, 2nd Lieutenant G. E., Trinidad Local Forces.
- Le Hunte, Sir George, R., G.C.M.G., Commander-in-Chief of the Trinidad Local Forces.
- Lloyd, Lieutenant Clifford H., (nephew of Mr. George Garnett), 32nd Battery, Royal Field Artillery. (Lieut. Lloyd has been made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour).
- Lloyd, 2nd Lieutenant H. W. C., (nephew of Mr. George Garnett), 1st Wiltshire Regiment. (Lieut. Lloyd has received the D.S.O., and been mentioned in despatches).
- Lucie-Smith, 2nd Lieutenant, (son of Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, of Jamaica), Royal Artillery.
- Marshall, Lieut.-Colonel R. S., Trinidad Local Forces.
- Masson, Surgeon-Captain G. H., 1st Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Matthey, 2nd Lieutenant C., British Guiana Militia.
- McCrindle, 2nd Lieutenant, (son of Dr. McCrindle, of St. Andrews, Jamaica), 10th Gordon Highlanders.
- McCulloch, Major A. M., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.
- McInroy, Captain J., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Methuen, Hon. Anthony, (nephew of Colonel the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton, of Antigua), The Scots Guards.
- Methuen, Hon. Paul, (nephew of Colonel the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton, of Antigua), The Wiltshire Yeomanry.
- Milholland, 2nd Lieutenant F. R., (son of Mr. J. F. Milholland, Crown Solicitor of Jamaica), A.P.W.O. Yorkshire Regiment.
- Miller, Veterinary Lieutenant J. D., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Moodie, Captain J., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Morgan, Gunner A. C., (Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.), 20th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, Territorials.
- Moxly, Lieut.-Commander Stephen H. S., (grandson of Mr. J. Glasgow Grant, of Barbados), H.M.S. *Express*.
- Moxly, 2nd Lieutenant J. H. S., (grandson of Mr. J. Glasgow Grant, of Barbados), 1st Bedfordshire Regiment. *At the front.*
- Murray, Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Gideon, Officer Commanding the Local Forces, St. Vincent.
- Murray, Lieutenant B. T., 1st Battalion, Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Murray, Lieutenant B. T., Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers. Aide-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief.
- Murray, James (Kendal, Tobago), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Neale, Lieutenant Frederick (son of Colonel Neale, and nephew of the late Sir George Chambers), Army Service Corps. *At the front.*
- Nicholls, Captain Thomas Burtonshaw, (nephew of Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Royal Army Medical Corps. *At the front.*
- Nicholls, Lieutenant Walter, (nephew of Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Queen's Own Rifles, Canadian Contingent.
- Nicholls, William Alford, (youngest son of Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), 1st Highland Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.
- Noble, H., (Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.), Bermuda Contingent.
- Owen, 2nd Lieutenant G. D., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Pasea, Captain H. G., Trinidad Light Horse, (Local Reserve of Officers), Trinidad Local Forces.
- Paul, 2nd Lieutenant R. J., Trinidad Local Forces.
- Paul, 2nd Lieutenant R. J., Supply Officer, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Pawan, Surgeon-Lieutenant J. L., 1st Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Perez, Surgeon-Captain J. A., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Pickering, Robert Young, (son of Mr. J. Pickering, Consulting Engineer), 17th Service Battalion Highland Light Infantry Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Battalion.
- Pollard, Lieutenant W. H., British Guiana Militia.
- Power, 2nd Lieutenant W. E., Trinidad Local Forces.
- Pralle, 2nd Lieutenant P., 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Richter, Captain Cecil, British Guiana Artillery.
- Ritchie, 2nd Lieutenant N. M., (son of Mr. Dougal Ritchie, late of Aurora, British Guiana), 3rd Battalion, The Black Watch.
- Robertson, Captain A., Trinidad Light Horse, (Local Reserve of Officers).
- Robinson, Lieutenant Cyril, (late of the Jamaica Militia, and brother of the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands), In Kitchener's Army.
- Rogers, Lieutenant C. S., Trinidad Mounted Infantry, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Rust, Captain R. T. H., Captain Commanding Trinidad Artillery Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Scott-Hushe, Captain R. J., Engineer-in-Charge of Works, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Sewell, Major H. S. (son of the late Hon. Henry Sewell, of Aradia, Jamaica, and estates' proprietor in that island), 1th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards.
- Sheppard, Charles Westcar, (son of Mrs. Sheppard, daughter of the late Sir George Chambers), Public School Training Corps).
- Smith, 2nd Lieutenant A. H. H., Cadet Officer, St. Mary's College Company, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Smith, Captain Max, Captain Commanding 2nd Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Solly, Private, (of Jamaica), The Sportsmen's Battalion.
- Sorzano, I., (Sailing from Tobago by next mail to join the Forces).
- Springer, Rev. W. M., B.A., Chaplain, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Swain, Colonel G. L. D., C.M.G., V.D., Commandant, Headquarters Staff, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Swertz, Surgeon-Lieutenant H. C., Trinidad Light Horse, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Tengeley, Captain L., British Guiana Militia Reserves.
- Tree, Rev. E. F., Chaplain, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Urich, Captain F. W., Adjutant 1st Battalion, Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Veira, Captain H. J., V.D., 1st Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Vernon, Private, (of Jamaica), The Sportsmen's Battalion.
- Warner, Captain T. S., Trinidad Local Forces, (on Active Service).
- Webb, Private Robert Eric, (grandson of Mr. R. F. H. Webb, late partner of Messrs. J. R. Templeman and Co., West India Merchants), Public Schools Battalion.
- Webb, William Austin, (grandson of Mr. R. F. H. Webb, late partner of Messrs. J. R. Templeman and Co., West India Merchants), Anti-Aircraft Corps.
- Wharton, 2nd Lieutenant K., Cadet Officer, Trinidad Cadet Corps, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Williams, Surgeon-Captain W. E. Rees, I.M.S., (eldest son of the late Dr. W. Rees Williams, Government Medical Officer of Roseau, Dominica), Attached to the Indian Force. *At the front.*
- Wilson, Captain J. W., Trinidad Local Forces (on Active Service).
- Wilson, 2nd Lieutenant J., Trinidad Mounted Infantry, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Wilson, Sir D., K.C.M.G., V.D., Hon. Colonel Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Local Reserve of Officers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Wilson, Captain W. B., 1st Battalion Trinidad Light Infantry, Volunteers, Trinidad Local Forces.
- Wortley, Private Maurice, (son of the Rev. Canon Wortley), Half-Way Tree, Jamaica), 6th Lancers.

Wright, George Alexander, (son of the late Mr. E. F. Wright, Inspector-General of Police, Jamaica), 7th Battalion, Lincoln Regiment.

Wright, Lieut.-Commander A. E., R.N., (son of the late Mr. E. F. Wright, Inspector-General of Police, Jamaica), H.M. Torpedo-boat No. 18.

### Wounded.

Gibbons, Robert R., R.N., (son of Mr. Robert Gibbons and great-grandson of Mr. Robert Kenrick Gibbons, an Estate proprietor in Barbados), H.M.S. *Tiger*.

Ritchie, Lieut. A. McD., (son of Mr. Dougal Ritchie, late of Anrota, British Guiana), 1st Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

### The R.M.S.P. Company's Contingent.

No fewer than 220 officers and men of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are now serving with His Majesty's Forces. Exigencies of space render it impossible to give the full list, and it must suffice to publish the names of those serving in the Naval Reserves. All are Royal Naval Reserves except where otherwise stated.

Custance, Commander P. H. M., H.M.S. *Eagle*.

Harrison, Lieut.-Commander J. G. B.,

Hewson, Lieut.-Commander J., H.M.S. *Caronia*.

Openshaw, Lieut.-Commander G. H., H.M.S. *Amphitrite*.

Warner, Lieut.-Commander G. E., H.M.S. *Orion*.

Clarke, Lieutenant E., H.M.S. *Donegal*.

Clayton, Lieutenant R. G., H.M.S. *Tamar*.

Cocks, Lieutenant A., H.M.S. *Diana*.

Collins, Lieutenant R., H.M.S. *Pelorus*.

Combs, Lieutenant T. E., (Unattached).

Hodges, Lieutenant J. A., H.M.S. *Bristol*.

Hunter, Lieutenant J. B., H.M.S. *Caribbean*.

Laidlaw, Lieutenant H. M. S., H.M.S. *Riviera*.

Lloyd, Lieutenant R. O., H.M.S. *Calgarian*.

Lloyd, Lieutenant G. H., H.M.S. *Invincible*.

Mackay, Lieutenant A. S., H.M.S. *Tiger*.

Newman, Lieutenant S. P., R.N.V.R.

Nelson, Lieutenant W. S., H.M.S. *Cedric*.

Owen, Lieutenant G. S., H.M.S. *Partridge*.

Parry-Jones, Lieutenant W. D., H.M.S. *Berwick*.

Rahitkens, Lieutenant C. E., H.M.S. *Berwick*.

Richards, Lieutenant G. W., H.M.S. *Myrmidon*.

Richardson, Lieutenant D. H., H.M.S. *Folkestone*.

Robinson, Lieutenant G. A., H.M.S. *Prince of Wales*.

Shillitoe, Lieutenant B., H.M.S. *Carnarvon*.

Shiel, Lieutenant R., H.M.S. *Edinburgh Castle*.

Tongue, Lieutenant P. J., H.M.S. *Caronia*.

Angell, Sub-Lieutenant F. W., R.I.M.

Bane, Sub-Lieutenant J. R., H.M.S. *Carmania*.

Bridgman, Sub-Lieutenant R. A. O., H.M.S. *Calgarian*.

Casey, Sub-Lieutenant D. A., Submarine E4.

Colebrook, Sub-Lieutenant A. E., H.M.S. *Duchess of Devonshire*.

Conlon, Sub-Lieutenant E. G. A., R.N.V.R.

Cornelius, Sub-Lieutenant M. E., R.N.A.S.

Gudgeon, Sub-Lieutenant A. E., H.M.S. *Duchess of Devonshire*.

Davies, Sub-Lieutenant J. E., R.N.V.R.

Deane, Sub-Lieutenant G. L. H., H.M.S. *Daconia*.

Fisher, Sub-Lieutenant F. H., H.M.S. *Folkestone*.

Fitzgerald, Sub-Lieutenant G. J., H.M.S. *Maidstone*.

Hendin, Sub-Lieutenant H. R.

Hooper, Sub-Lieutenant J. S., H.M.S. *Sarnia*.

Humphrey, Sub-Lieutenant F. F., H.M.S. *Brilliant*.

Huntingford, Sub-Lieutenant T. W. A., H.M.S. *Imperieuse*.

Jenkins, Sub-Lieutenant H. L., H.M.S. *Brazen*.

Joyson, Sub-Lieutenant A. G.,

Macey, Sub-Lieutenant G. C., H.M.S. *Desperate*.

Moore, Sub-Lieutenant E., H.M.S. *Dick Whittingham*.

Seaman, Sub-Lieutenant T. H., H.M.S. *Sarnia*.

Sutherland, Sub-Lieutenant B. R. U., (Unattached).

Tepper, Sub-Lieutenant R. H., R.N.V.R.

Tracy, Sub-Lieutenant C. H. S., H.M.S. *Maidstone*.

Watt, Sub-Lieutenant D. A., H.M.S. *Excellent*.

Bingham, Midshipman J. W., H.M.S. *Teutonic*.

Braine, Midshipman C. S.,

Berry, Midshipman B. K., H.M.S. *Orama*.

Campbell, J. A.,

Coates, Midshipman T., H.M.S. *Empress of Russia*.

Cox, Midshipman V. S., H.M.S. *Excellent*.

Davies, Midshipman H. M., H.M.S. *Armada Castle*.

Derrick, Midshipman J., H.M.S. *Cyclops*.

Drew, Midshipman H., H.M.S. *Mantua*.

Durston, Midshipman A., H.M.S. *Riviera*.

Frost, Midshipman G.,

Gibson, Midshipman N., H.M.S. *Marmora*.

Howell, Midshipman J. A., H.M.S. *Empress of Britain*.

King, Midshipman L. C., H.M.S. *Orolava*.

Lawrence, Midshipman C. C., H.M.S. *Otranto*.

Loram, Midshipman D. S., H.M.S. *Motagua*.

Paterson, Midshipman K., H.M.S. *Orolava*.

Robbins, Midshipman S.,

Rutley, Midshipman R. V., H.M.S. *Macedonia*.

Tracey, Midshipman G. R.,

Wadsworth, Midshipman H., H.M.S. *Empress of Britain*.

Wheable, Midshipman H. A., H.M.S. *Caribbean*.

White, Midshipman A. L., H.M.S. *Highflyer*.

Williams, Midshipman R. A. B., H.M.S. *Cedric*.

Wolfenden, Midshipman C., H.M.S. *Caronia*.

Vician, Midshipman J.,

Elders, Midshipman G. F.

Gordon, Midshipman T. M.

Harris, Midshipman S. B.

Hopkins, Midshipman J. G. L.

Sedney, Midshipman J. R.

Chamberlain, Assist.-Paymaster E., H.M.S. *Empress*.

Houghton, Assist.-Paymaster R.,

Lelcu, Assist.-Paymaster H. J., H.M.S. *Reindeer*.

Lipscombe, Assist.-Paymaster L. F., H.M.S. *Peshawar*.

Owen, Assist.-Paymaster H. W. S., H.M.S. *Gazelle*.

Sheringham, Assist.-Paymaster H., H.M.S. *Victory*.

Stoddart, Assist.-Paymaster H. A., H.M.S. *Pembroke*.

Waddington, Assist.-Paymaster C. C., H.M.S. *Orolava*.

Wakeford, Assist.-Paymaster P. H., H.M.S. *Foimidable*.

Vernon, Assist.-Paymaster F. B., H.M.S. *Victory*.

Among those serving in the Army are:—

Bartlett, Lieutenant W. F.

Beaton, Lieutenant R.

Bevered, Lieutenant R. W.

Hall, Lieutenant A. H.

Hewson, Lieutenant K. M.

Lowth, Lieutenant N. C. L.

Miles, Lieutenant A. G., Royal Engineers.

Boby, 2nd Lieutenant J. G., 8th Somerset Light Infantry.

Cooper, 2nd Lieut. G. T. N., 9th County of London.

Donner, 2nd Lieut. W. A., 15th Durham Light Infantry.

Leys, 2nd Lieutenant C. M., Queen's Westminster Rifles.

Robinson, Private P. J., 1st Hertfordshire (killed).

[Copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, of

December 1st, 15th, and 29th, 1914, and January 12th and

26th, 1915, in which the first, second, third, fourth and fifth

lists, containing 315, 63, 99, 22 and 111 names respectively

were published, are obtainable at the West India Committee

Rooms, 15, Seething Lane.]

Mr. HILTON YOUNG, who has been returned un-

opposed as Member of Parliament (Liberal) for

Norwich, is the youngest son of Sir George Young

who was a member of the Royal Commission on

Coolie Immigration in British Guiana in 1870. Mr.

Young has been serving as volunteer lieutenant in

Sir John Jellicoe's flagship for the last five months.

## THE EAST COAST RAIDS.

### An Historic Precedent for Compensation.

The document reproduced on this page is of topical interest in view of the decision of the Government to compensate property owners on the East Coast for losses incurred through the recent raids. It is a debenture for £113s., which was handed to one Jonas Webbar, a planter of Nevis, who suffered from an invasion by the French, who in that island and in St. Kitts destroyed property to the value of £356,925, and carried off many slaves. The reproduction of this interesting document, the wording of which can be plainly read may perhaps reassure those residents in the British West Indies, who have any doubts on the subject as to what the attitude of the British Government would be in the event of a raid by hostile cruisers, a contingency which we earnestly hope may never arise. It will be noted that the procedure two hundred years ago was the same as it is to-day, a Commission having been appointed to investigate claims.

The Office in the Cock-pit was that of the "Council of Trade and Plantations," the forerunner of the Colonial Office. This body comprised the Committee of the Privy Council appointed on July 4th, 1660, "for the Plantations" and the "Council of Trade," which were amalgamated in 1672. The Council of Trade and Plantations was suppressed in 1677, its functions being transferred to the Privy Council; but it was reconstituted in 1695, and continued to exist

until 1782 concurrently with the Office of Secretary of State for the American or Colonial Department, which was established in 1768.

The "Guilford," one of the Commissioners, who signed this document, was Francis North, second Earl of Guilford (1673-1729). "Phil Meadows" was the son of Sir Philip Meadows (1628-1718), the distinguished diplomatist, and, later, Secretary to Cromwell's Council. He was Controller of Army Accounts, and was himself knighted by King William III.

l. s. d.

N<sup>o</sup>. 247

For 114 = 13 = 0

**P**URSUANT to an Act of Parliament passed in the Tenth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, Directing Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Affairs of Trade and Plantations, or any Three or more of them, to make forth, sign and deliver Debentures for One Hundred and Three Thousand and Three Pounds, Eleven Shillings and Four Pence, to such of the Proprietors or Inhabitants of the Islands of Nevis and St. Christopher, who suffer'd by the late French Invasion, and who should, on or before the 25th Day of December 1712, make Proof, as by the said Act is directed, that they had Resettled their Plantations or Habitations in the said Islands respectively, on or before the 25th Day of December 1711; This Debenture entitleth Jonas Webbar of the Island of Nevis Planter who was a sufferer by the said Invasion of the French, and resettled there before the said 25th Day of December 1711, to the Sum of Twenty four pounds thirteen Shillings being one third Part of sic Loss specify'd in the Return of a Commission mentioned in that Act, with Interest from the 25th Day of December 1711, after the Rate of six Pounds per Centum per Annum, which Principal and Interest are by the said Act to be paid and satisfy'd to the said Jonas Webbar his certain Attornies, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, in like Manner as the Debentures which were lately charged on the Forfeited Estates in Ireland, have been, or shall be satisfy'd and discharged. Given at our Office of Trade and Plantations, in the Cock-pit at Whitehall, this First Day of April Anno Dom. 1713

A COMPENSATION DEBENTURE ISSUED IN 1713.

This interesting document now hangs in the West India Committee Rooms.

Mr. Vere L. Oliver, the great authority on West Indian genealogy, informs us that Jonas Webber (*sic*) was entered in the Census of Nevis of 1707-8. John Mills, his attorney, whose signature appears in the margin, was a well-known West India merchant.

The "Cock-pit" was part of Henry VIII.'s Palace of Whitehall, overlooking St. James' Palace. Originally used for cock-fighting, it afterwards became Government Office, and the "Cock-pit" was the equivalent of our "Downing Street."

## DE RUYTER'S DEFEAT AT BARBADOS.

1st MAY, 1665.

By N. DARNELL DAVIS, C.M.G.

(Continued from page 37 and concluded.)

While these things were doing at Barbados, Lord Willoughby was at Surinam, and was the victim of a tragedy, which was thus described by Major William Byam, his Deputy Governor. Byam had been a hot cavalier at Barbados when that island had been blockaded by Admiral Ayscue, and had been described as a "known malignant." He subsequently removed to Antigua, where his family long held the highest position, and expired only in our day, in the person of Sir William Byam, an old Waterloo officer, who commanded the local forces and was President of the Council.

A copy of the original will be found in the excellent Library of the Royal Colonial Institute, London.

Extract from Major Byam's *Exact Relation of the most Execrable attempt of John Allen, etc.*"

"The usual hour for evening prayer being come all went to Divine Service in an upper room, where myself, council, and several gentlemen of the Colony, besides domestic servants, attended His Excellency. And as his Chaplain was reading the first lesson, being the 3rd of II Samuel and the 27th verse, "And Joab smote Abner under the fifth rib," etc., Allen enters the room with a ghastly and direful countenance, at first unknown to any present, and going towards His Excellency with his left hand extended, as if he intended some civil address, and his right hand aloof behind his right thigh with his short cutlass in it, and as soon as within reach smote His Excellency's head with all his fury, and seconded his blow before I who was one of his nearest could interpose; immediately other gentlemen rushed on him. At the instant in which I seized him, Allen stabs himself with his short cutlass in his right side and down he fell. All were surprized with amazement and horror, and had I not with a passionate earnestness most strictly commanded them to forbear, that he might be reserved for the hand of justice, several would have slain him, and he hearing them cry out, Kill the dog! replied "I came here to dye, to kill my Lord, and then myself."

After I had secured him with a guard, I waited on His Excellency, whom I found through God's mercy better than I expected, wounded in the forehead with a slanting blow, but his worst hurt was in his hand, with his forefinger and middle finger cut off, and had lost a third had not a large ring which he wore thereon defended it. I returning to Allen, commanded him to be secured. In his pockets were found some powder and balls, and several papers. His wound had a large orifice, and about his bare body a new card-board band, for what use I know not; and charge being given to a Chirurgeon to dress him, and take care of him, I with my Council perused his papers, among which we found the letter which he had written to His Excellency, which I have here inserted that the world may see what an infamous bloody villain this was. But this as in the postscript he writes, was sent but not delivered.\*

"This night he lay in torment with the anguish of his wound, which caused a violent fever. He repented for nothing but that he had not killed His Excellency, and cursed the coat that he wore (which was one of his negroes, that he might be less known), that denied his sword from entering deep enough into his body. His Excellency's Chaplain giving him spiritual advice, he bid him talk to the rabble and not to him. He gloried in the action he had committed, but grieved it was unsuccessful; and being by an intimate acquaintance interrogated of his complices he answered 'He scorned any man should share with him in so noble an action!' Being demanded whether he desired anything to despatch himself, he answered, 'He could do that at any time,' and at about 12 at night the Marshal being gone out of the room, he drew forth a pistol (which was supposed to be tied to his thigh) charged up to the muzzle, clapped it to his breast, struck fire, but it would not go off. He then called to a sentinel to spare him a stick of fire to light his pipe, which received, he clapped the burning coat to the pan, but all would not discharge the pistol, which being then discovered, was taken from him.

"Being deprived of his instrument to murder himself, he in vain solicited the Marshal privately for another, still continuing obstinately unrelenting, and grieved at nothing but that he had not murdered His Excellency and butchered himself.

"On the 6th day he was sent down to the gaol with a strong guard, and seemed cheerfut when he was put in the boat, but had not gone above two leagues when, feeling death approaching but undiscoverably to the Marshal and Guard, he discoursed a little, and was immediately seized with internal tortures, and in a short time became senseless and expired. His carcase was delivered to the common gaol where I commanded several Chirurgeons to dissect him and narrowly observe whether he had taken any poison in his maw. They found a pinch of Laudanum undigested, some digested, and some that had passed

\* The letter is wanting in the copy.

into his intestines. This was probably given to him by one Sergeant the Chirurgion that dressed him, enticed therunto by a diamond ring and some small presents, who now in durance, too late bewails his folly.

"The Jury of Inquests found Allen *Felo de se*, and because such an unheard attempt merited an unusual punishment, his naked carcase was ordered to be dragged from the Gaol by the common hangman, and negroes to the Pillory at the Town of Toorarica, where a Barbacane was erected, where he was dry barbecued or dry roasted after the Indian manner, his body quartered, and his head stuck on a pole at Parham, his quarters being put up at the most eminent places of the Colony."

[The writer desires to acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Colebrand and the Yonkheer Baron Hora Siccama, of the Hague; of Dr. Theal, of South Africa, and Mr. Abraham de Villiers, of the British Museum, in the preparation of the foregoing narrative.]

### LOOKING BACK.

*Under this heading extracts from the old records and minute books of the West India Committee are published.*

#### VI.—London's Sugar Imports in 1769-70.

In the minutes of a meeting of the West India Committee held at "the King's Arms Tavern in Cornhill," on April 3rd, 1770, the following entry appears:—

"The Annual Importation of Sugar and Rum [into London] from the 25th March, 1769, to the 25th March, 1770, was read and is as follows:

	Ships.	Casks Sugar	Puns. Rum.
Jamaica	132	43091	9762
Antigua	30	11567	17
St. Kitts	36	12584	69
Barbadoes	23	9479	25
Granadaes	51	12234	427
Mfserat	9	4032	22
Nevis	7	2149	12
Dominico	9	1419	8
St. Vincent's	8	1863	29
Tortola	3	1205	2
	308	99623	10353 [sic]

In this year, Berbice, Essequibo and Demerara which now form British Guiana were still Dutch Colonies. Trinidad was a struggling Spanish possession with a sparse population. St. Lucia was in the hands of the French to whom it had been restored a year after its capture by Rodney and Monckton in 1762.

### MICHAEL McTURK.

The importance services rendered to the colony of British Guiana, and to the Empire, by the late Mr. Michael McTurk are deserving of a fuller recognition than that contained in the brief obituary notice that appeared in last WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

The subject of our notice was born in 1843, the son of Sir Michael McTurk, a well-known planter and legislator of British Guiana at the time of Emancipation, 1834-37. Six years of his early life, from 1859 to 1865, were spent at sea, mostly on adventurous voyages in American immigrant ships. He returned to Demerara in 1865, and devoted himself with some success to sugar planting for another spell of seven years, entering the public service of the colony as a land surveyor in 1872, being appointed to the Essequibo and Pomeroon district; thus began his long service on the rivers and in the vast, little known, and practically untrodden interior of Guiana, becoming intimately acquainted with the different Indian tribes inhabiting the hinterland. Probably no other white man was so well acquainted with every part of the colony, or became so well versed in the resources of the interior and the habits of its aborigines, as was Michael McTurk. He was subsequently appointed Commissioner of the Essequibo River and its tributaries, Protector of Aboriginal Indians and Special Magistrate for all parts of the colony. He resided for many years at Kalacoon, a commanding position on the Massaruni River, overlooking the old Dutch fort of Kyk-over-all, and immediately opposite H.M. Penal Settlement, which was purchased by the colony about the year 1876 from the then proprietors of *Plu. Meten Meer Zorg*, West Coast. Here his eldest daughter, who was an expert swimmer, rescued from drowning a young friend from Georgetown, for which act she was awarded the medal of the Royal Humane Society, obtained for her through Sir Cayendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., at that time acting Governor of the colony. It was at Kalacoon, too, that McTurk built with his own hands, or under his immediate personal direction, his well known Government cutter-yacht *Biridie*, famous in Guiana waters, and in which he did most of his cruising along the coasts and in the river estuaries of the colony. His relations with the aborigines were uniformly satisfactory, as indicated in the following extract from a notice of his life recently published in the *Demerara Argosy*: "Mr. McTurk spoke the various Indian dialects as fluently as the tribesmen, and was so well versed in their habits and customs that he could go in and out among them disguised as one of their number without detection. Exercising as he did for many years absolute sway over thousands of miles, he was to the Indians the embodiment of English rule, and to him they looked and in him they trusted for protection against acts of aggression or oppression from whatever direction these threatened."

Mr. McTurk did much to bring about a settlement of the long standing boundary dispute between the colony of British Guiana and the adjoining Republic of Venezuela, followed later on by a demarcation of the boundary between the colony and Brazil. He was a long standing "thorn in the flesh" with the Venezuelan authorities, discovering and circumventing successive aggressive acts of theirs in attempting to obtain a footing on the border lands claimed by the colony; at one time he was arrested by the Venezuelans on what they deemed to be, the wrong side of the boundary, and actually condemned to death as a spy; but he remained undaunted to the end, when, fortunately, on the morning he was to have been shot, he was released and conducted out of the country by another route. McTurk always maintained that it was an improvised uniform of his own design he was wearing at the time that saved the situation and earned the respect of his captors! Ultimately through the intervention of the United States a settlement of the boundary dispute was arranged by arbitration in the year 1899. In the preparation of the

British case, both Sir Everard F. in Thurn, K.C.M.G., (late Government Agent of the North-West District) and Mr. McTurk materially assisted Lord Alverstone, the late Chief Justice of England (then the Right Hon. Richard E. Webster, Attorney General), by collecting evidence of former Dutch occupation in support of the British claims. For these services Mr. McTurk received the C.M.G.

He was a man of strong and wiry constitution, and lived a strenuous and adventurous life throughout his long career as bushman, pioneer and huntsman, being noted for his Spartan mode of living during his numerous bush expeditions: he was an expert authority on the forest trees and timbers of the colony, as well as on the general folk lore of the Indians. On one of his hunting expeditions he was severely mangled by a wounded jaguar, and nearly lost a limb in consequence. He had a keen sense of humour and was a capital *raconteur*, especially in the creole vernacular, in which he excelled, and many writings in prose and verse appeared from his pen from time to time under the *nom de plume* of "Quow."

Having passed the age limit of the Government service, he retired on a substantial pension in 1909; but a life of ease being abhorrent to a man of his active habits, he immediately took service with the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates as travelling inspector of their numerous grants and claims, and continued in their employ up to the time of his death on the 7th January, 1915; his valuable experience and advice being, also, always at the disposal of the colonial government whenever required.

As stated in the last CIRCULAR, Mr. McTurk was twice married, and is survived by a widow and eight children, most of whom are now grown up.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. WILLIAM GOODWIN.

We have with sincere regret to announce the death of Mr. William Goodwin, which took place after a brief illness on February 3rd.

Mr. Goodwin who, though in his eightieth year, was in harness up to within a few weeks before his death, was for many years a regular contributor to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. During the whole of a long business career, he was associated with the West Indies, and notably St. Vincent. His first connection with that island dated from the days of Mr. James Graham, the principal owner of considerable estates there. Mr. Graham established a London House in the conduct of which Mr. Goodwin took part, becoming eventually manager. This firm was latterly known as Messrs. D. K. Porter and Company, of which the subject of this memoir became a partner. The partnership continued during the life of Mr. Alexander Porter, nephew of Mr. D. K. Porter, but was dissolved on his death, and the family disposed of the estates, of which the total acreage was 11,826 acres, some years after the volcanic eruption of 1902. For many years Mr. Goodwin was a member of the Acting Committee, as the Executive of the West India Committee was called prior to the Charter of 1904. A fearless and fluent speaker, he often appeared on the platform in the days of the sugar bounties agitation. He gave evidence before the Royal Commission of 1897, and latterly as a member of the staff of the CIRCULAR he did much useful work. Mr. Goodwin was Governor of Bridewell and Bethlem Royal Hospitals in which he took a deep and active interest. By his colleagues, especially, he will be much missed.

The R. M. S. P. *Essequibo* will take the place of the *Darube* on the West Indian transatlantic route on Thursday next. With this welcome change the two new Royal Mail steamers will be running between this country and the West Indies and it is hoped that some tourists may be attracted.

## COLONIAL REPORT.

### Grenada and the Panama Canal.

In his report on the Blue-book of the colony for 1913, Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., sounds a note of warning which, it is hoped, will not fall on deaf ears. Grenada, he points out, depends for its prosperity, almost for its existence at present, upon cacao and spices, and the highly remunerative prices obtained for these staples have resulted in the neglect of other industries. Were the price of cacao to fall below remunerative production, the colony would be in sore straits, and the necessity for adopting a policy of broadening its productive capacity by the encouragement of minor products, such as ground provisions, for supplying local demands, which now depend on imported foodstuffs, more particularly on the land settlements, is urgent and imperative.

The total revenue and expenditure and imports and exports of the colony for the last five years were as under:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £	*Imports. £	*Exports. £
1909-10	74,224	73,282	268,236	284,846
1910-11	81,413	75,561	279,236	291,760
1911-12	98,645	81,012	309,227	264,640
1912-13	86,393	84,059	324,779	285,500
1913-14	91,258	85,827	282,927	367,140

\* For Calendar years 1909 to 1913.

In quantity the exports of cacao slightly exceeded those of 1912—105,284 cwt. as against 101,043 cwt.; while the value rose from £225,317 to £303,073, an increase of 35 per cent. The value of nutmegs and mace export rose to £25,205 and £18,939, as compared with £21,737 and £15,040 in 1912, respectively. The cultivation of cotton is confined entirely to Carriacou, and the industry is steadily progressing. Marie Galante is practically the only variety planted, efforts to establish Sea Island cotton having so far proved unsuccessful. The cotton exported last year was of the value of £10,499, as compared with £9,019 in 1912, while the value of cotton seed sent away was £2,779 as against £1,964 in the previous year. The other products exported included:—

	Value. £
Lime juice	240
Avocado Pears	373
Coco-nuts	316
Copra	255
Turtle shell	473

The direction of the colony's trade is shown by the following table:—

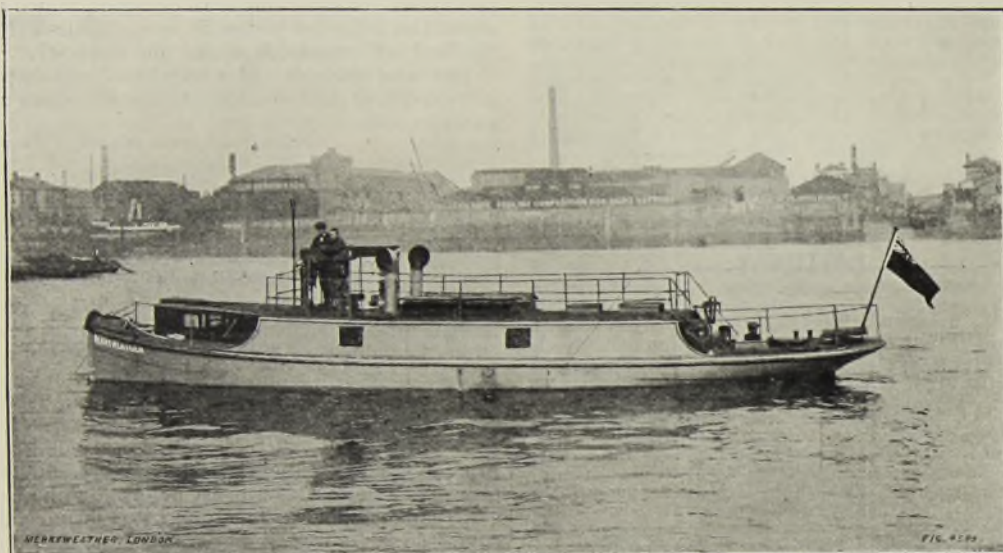
From	Value. £	Per centage.	Value. £	Per centage.
United Kingdom	113,076	40	228,232	62
British Colonies	69,135	24	6,496	2
Foreign Countries	100,716	36	132,421	36
United States (alone)	88,342	31	89,666	24
Canada (alone)	9,214	3	401	—

The Panama Canal brought into prominence once more the subject of the improvement of St. George's Harbour—and the matter took concrete form in 1912 in the report of a local committee. Upon the re-

commendations in the report Mr. I. C. Barling, a harbour works engineer representing the firm of Messrs. Coode, Matthews, Fitzmaurice and Wilson, arrived in Grenada early in the year and remained several weeks in the island, submitting later on a full report embodying proposals and estimates for two alternate schemes for the dredging of the harbour, the construction of wharfage, moorings, etc. The first scheme, involving an expenditure of £91,000 (£70,800 for wharfage, £13,600 for dredging, buoys, etc., £5,700 for sheds and £900 for a boat harbour), provides for a wharfage front of 850 feet, sufficient to berth two steamers. The alternative scheme, the cost of which was estimated at £60,000, proposed the construction of a wharf 450 feet in

### A FIRE BOAT FOR DEMERARA.

A petrol fire boat, which has just been completed by Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, of Greenwich, for service in the Demerara River, will prove a valuable addition to the fire-fighting appliances of Georgetown which are being overhauled as the result of last year's serious conflagration. The new vessel of which an illustration is given on this page, is built throughout of steel, with a plating of double thickness on the water line to withstand the rapid corrosion which takes place in the port. Her length is 50 ft., her breadth 12 ft. 6 in. and her draught 2 ft. 6 in. The centre of the boat is occupied by



A Fire Boat for Demerara.

length for one steamer, corresponding with the western portion of the wharfage in the larger scheme. An estimate for the establishment of a coal depot was given at £16,000.

Dealing with the question of trade with Canada, Mr. Watkins expresses the hope that the agreement will be the commencement and development among the islands of a stronger patriotism, a larger outlook, and a truer Imperialism.

The annual statement issued by the Rhodes Trust shows that 177 Rhodes scholars were in residence in 1913-14. Of these 76 were from the colonies, 88 from the United States, and 13 from Germany. Of the colonial students a large number have joined the Imperial Army. The next election of scholars from the Dominions and Colonies will take place at the end of the present year.

the engine space with raised deck extending to the full width which allows ample space for the manipulation of the fire-fighting and salvage gear. The boat is propelled by two four-cylinder marine type petrol engines, each 53 h.p., driving from one end, twin screw propellers, and from the other two Hatfield reciprocating pumps made entirely of gunmetal. The total capacity of the pumps is 1,000 gallons per minute at a pressure of 140 lbs. per square inch; a single working nozzle being 1½ in. diameter. The speed of the vessel averages 8.84 knots, with the engines running at about 600 revolutions per minute. It is claimed that the boat possesses similar advantages to the motor driven fire engine. While not in use the cost of upkeep is practically nil, while it is instantly ready for action. Boats of this class often have long periods of inaction, and during these the running costs are little more than the wages of the two duty men.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

WRITING in the *Indian Agricultural World* on the subject of the propagation of the mango, Mr. William Bembower considers that budding is much superior to inarching. The advantages of the former he considers to be (1) Seedling trees may be started in the place they are to grow, and when a convenient time comes, may be budded with any desired variety, (2) It is easier to obtain varieties from a distance by this method, (3) If the first attempt is a failure, the operation may be repeated, and (4) Old trees may be made into as many varieties as there are suitable branches.

OWING to the excessive quantity of chlorides and sulphates, soil sterility is well-known in the Dutch East Indies, the cause of the presence of these salts in such quantities being due to flooded craters. A case of sterility has, however, says the *Tropical Agriculturist*, lately been investigated in Java, in which large quantities of soda existed in the form of carbonate. It was found that the addition of 1.2 per cent. of quicklime produced a wonderful improvement in the soil, while the addition of 3.6 per cent. injured the vegetation, but completely changed the physical condition of the soil.

IN Trinidad the apostle of subsoil tillage by dynamite is Mr. Harry Vincent, who has recently brought some interesting experiences to the notice of the Agricultural Society of that island. In one instance in the cultivation of maize, the corn was planted in dynamited and undynamited land. After reaping, the dynamited portion showed a yield of 41 barrels to the acre, and the undynamited 19 barrels, the appearance of the ears in the former case being much finer than in the latter. To dynamite the soil, holes are drilled down into the subsoil at intervals of 10 to 15 inches, over the entire field. Half a cartridge is then placed in each hole and exploded. For sugar purpose on stiff clay soils, Mr. Vincent estimates the cost as \$35 per acre.

THE Chinese in the Amoy district have an ingenious method of hatching both hens' and ducks' eggs. A quantity of unhusked rice is taken and roasted. It is then cooled down by fanning, or by allowing the wind to blow through it until it is lukewarm. A 3-inch layer of the rice is then placed in a wooden tub, and about 100 eggs placed thereon; another layer of rice, about two inches in thickness, and of eggs placed over it, and so on until there are six layers of rice and five layers of eggs. The rice is heated every twenty-four hours, when the eggs are taken out for turning. The entire tub is covered with a mattress. According to the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, one of the greatest difficulties is to tell just when the eggs will hatch, which renders the smothering of young chicks possible.

### AT WESTMINSTER.

#### The Sugar Convention.

On February 4th in reply to Mr. Lough, who asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that a new arrangement was entered into under the Brussels Sugar Convention in May, 1913, restricting the freedom of this country in granting drawbacks on the export of cane sugar, and whether he could now undertake that all entanglements arising out of the Convention would be finally ended, Mr. Runciman, to whom the question was transferred, said the object of the arrangement was to secure British exporters of sugared goods and of refined sugar against penalisation on importation into Convention countries.

In return for this important guarantee, the only pledge given by His Majesty's Government was to give six months' notice of any intention to give bounties on the export of sugar or to treat Colonial sugar or cane sugar preferentially. This arrangement was greatly to the advantage of our sugar-using trades, and it was undesirable to disturb it.

#### The Government Sugar Purchases.

In the House of Commons on February 4th, Mr. Tonche asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department when it was anticipated that the Government stocks of sugar will be exhausted; was he aware that manufacturers were embarrassed by the uncertainty as to future purchases, and that they could now purchase forward at substantially below the rates fixed for this country if the prohibition were to be removed; and could he indicate the course to be followed, for the guidance of British manufacturers, bearing in view the disadvantages of uncertainty.

Mr. McKenna: It would be premature to state now when the stocks of sugar held by the Royal Commission will be exhausted, but adequate notice will be given to prevent as far as possible any embarrassment to manufacturers. The importation of sugar was prohibited with the object of preventing the sale of enemy sugar to this country or to neutral countries, who might use it to replace sugar bought for the United Kingdom, an object in which I understand the manufacturers are in full sympathy with the Government. The prohibition cannot be removed so long as its removal would be of great benefit to the enemy.

Sir J. H. Dalziel: Is it the case that American sugar is still being prohibited for sale in this country, and, if so, why?

Mr. McKenna: Yes, the prohibition is general and includes all sugar. If American sugar were sent here it would be replaced in America by enemy sugar. My hon. Friend is doubtful on the point, but I have documentary proof of it.

Mr. Lough: Has my right hon. Friend considered whether sugar might not be imported from our own Colonies and from other places where it is impossible for German or Austrian sugar to replace it?

Mr. McKenna: The amount would be extremely small in any circumstances. I will discuss the question with my right hon. Friend and show him the figures.

#### Sugar Importation.

On the same day a written reply was published to a question put by Mr. Joynson-Hicks, who asked the President of the Board of Trade whether the importation of sugar other than that sent to the Sugar Commission was now prohibited; if so, whether he was aware that sugar was being imported from Holland; and if he could discover whether the Dutch sugar really came from Germany.

Mr. Runciman: I may remind the hon. Member that the Proclamation of 26th October last, under which the importation of sugar into the United Kingdom is prohibited, exempted from that prohibition sugar "imported under contract made prior to 4th August, 1914." In all cases in which sugar is imported under this provision, proof is required that the sugar has not been produced by an enemy or in an enemy country or refined from sugar produced by an enemy or in an enemy country. I am further informed that the Government of the Netherlands have taken the most stringent precautions to prevent the introduction into that country from Germany either of sugar or of sugar beet.



### NOTES OF INTEREST.

AMONG recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms has been Mr. E. P. Gladwyn, formerly of Pln. Friends, British Guiana, and now of Portuguese East Africa, where he is manager of the Sena Company's sugar factory.

It is always gratifying to find that the work of the West India Committee is appreciated. In this connection, Mr. J. Reginald Simpson, one of the oldest members, who is now resident in Natal, forwarding his subscription, writes: "I am glad to see the Committee membership continues to grow, and I feel certain that with the spread of Imperial thoughts in England you have a far greater work before you, and that the Committee is bound to grow both in size and influence I do not think that there can be any doubt. It has my heartiest good wishes."

THE earthworm, says the *Durban Agricultural News*, is to some extent an indication of the nature of the soil. Where the land is full of heart, the worms present a well-grown and fleshy appearance; where the soil is poor they are small, thin and attenuated, and sometimes of a pink and greenish colour. As a rule, when the worm comes to the surface it keeps its tail within the narrow opening of its burrow, so that, possessing a keen sense of hearing, it can retract its body with greater ease. The mould left in the form of casts on the surface of the land, has, also, manurial value.

Two nephews of Mr. George Garnett have rendered a good account of themselves during the war. Lieutenant H. W. C. Lloyd led an attack on the enemy's lines on the 19th of October for which he received the D.S.O., the other, Lieut. Clifford H. Lloyd, of the Royal Field Artillery went out with his battery to replace the L Battery of the R.H.A. which was cut up at Mons, and as Galloper was entrusted with some important despatches which he delivered to the French General, safely, although he had to ride through an inferno of shot and shell. For this he was made Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

LORD DESBOROUGH, who was President of the last Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, presiding at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on 2nd February, when Mr. Davson read a paper on "Sugar and the War," referred to the formation of an Association in the West Indies. He understood that its inauguration had been deferred until next year owing to the war, but the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which it had been arranged should meet at Ottawa next September would also in all probability be postponed for twelve months, and, therefore, he still hoped that the West Indian Chamber would be able to hold its inaugural

meeting in time for it to send delegates to the Congress. He hoped the Congress would apply itself, under the two mottoes of "Union in Commerce" and "Unity in Defence," to the discussion of affairs of inter-Empire commerce in a practical manner, and he hoped the results of those deliberations would be to the lasting benefit of the trade of the British Empire.

DEALING with a letter published in the *Times* of January 25th, from the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance condemning the Government's sugar policy, Mr. Guy Wyatt, in a letter which appeared two days later, wrote:—

"Others are not so sure, and prefer to await further developments in 1915-16, but they are convinced, however, that the Government ought never to have been in such a position as to have even to consider, let alone to take such purchases, and the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance is not free of serious blame for helping to force such a position on it. They have worked against countervailing duties and the Brussels Convention for many years. But for the latter there would not have been the small British sugar industry to-day to help the country, and had the appeal for countervailing duties to the full amount of the Continental bounties (as given in the United States and India) been granted previous to 1902, no Brussels Convention would have been necessary, and a large British cane sugar industry would now be in existence, and manufacturers and consumers would be independent of foreigners in Germany and Austria for their supplies of an important article of food.

"The lessons should not be lost, and the decision as to the future cannot be longer delayed without further risk to a British dye industry and a British cane sugar industry."

### A BRITISH BEET VENTURE.

In the 1870 volume of the *Journal de l'Agriculture* an interesting account is given, by a Frenchman who was connected with the concern, of a sugar beet growing venture carried out on a large scale by Mr. Robert Campbell, of Buscot Park, in Berkshire. The writer of the account had evidently been engaged in the erection of the stills, the sugar of the beets being entirely converted into alcohol.

The scheme was an ambitious one and apparently thoroughly exploited. The area connected with it comprised no less than 5,000 acres, and complete irrigation was afforded by the waters of the Thames. To this end a central reservoir was constructed which held no less than 3,000,000 cubic metres—3,924,000 cubic yards of water. The land was steam ploughed, Fowler's ploughs being employed, each of which dealt with 25 acres in 24 hours at a cost of two shillings per acre, as against ten shillings with horses. No less than 40 tons of beets were grown to the acre, containing from 10 to 12 per cent. of sugar.

The juice was extracted from the beets by means of presses, and fermented in vats holding 6,000 gallons each. The refuse from the beets is stated to have been sufficient to feed 12,000 sheep and 2,500 oxen. Two large French stills were employed, and large metal cisterns constructed to store the spirit when made. What is the real story of this scheme?

### THE LONDON LETTER.

PARLIAMENT, which has just reassembled, will shortly be discussing the report issued by the Special Committee appointed to consider the question of allowances to the widows and children of our defenders. Some dissatisfaction had been created by the smallness of the amounts previously proposed. The increase now suggested—roughly about half-a-crown as week all round—does not err on the side of extravagance. The problem, however, is by no means easy of solution, and the special duty of Parliament is to ensure justice without encouraging improvidence.

No section of the United Kingdom has responded more readily to the call to the Colours than Wales. The Welsh Army Corps is being rapidly recruited. In recognition of this display of patriotism the suggestion is mooted for the creation of a regiment or regiments of Welsh Guards. Precedents can be cited. One recalls the origin of the Irish Guards formed to commemorate the bravery of Irishmen in the Boer War. Moreover, England and Scotland have been long represented among our crack corps. It remains only to include the Principality in order to complete a Brigade of Guards which will then be truly symbolical of the United Kingdom.

THE feeling grows that secrecy and silence have been too strictly observed in regard to our recruiting methods. Many clever posters have been designed to induce men to join the Army, and there is no reason to believe that they have failed in their object. At the same time the powerful stimulus to patriotism provided by bands of music parading through the streets has been lacking. The influence of music in times of war needs no emphasis. It is found in the world-wide popularity of "Tipperary," and in the demand from our men at the front for mouth organs. A change for the better is to be made. A movement fostered by a Mansion House gathering is afoot to provide necessary bands.

WOMEN are finding many opportunities of employment hitherto denied them. The absence of so many men at the front has created a demand for female labour in several spheres hitherto monopolised by the other sex. Southampton has hit upon the bold expedient of enlisting women constables for the local police force. So far only two have been engaged, and we have yet to learn how far the Home Office approves the innovation, which is useful as showing the trend of employment.

It will surprise our readers overseas to learn that grapefruit has been grown in England. The plant, about nine feet high and bearing four grapefruit of good size was exhibited at a recent show of the Royal Horticultural Society. The specimen had

been grown under glass at Chertsey, and was exhibited by Sir Albert Rollit, who has been prominent in public life for many years. This is not the first time that such fruit has been produced in this country, but the occasions—one or two only during the present generation—have been so rare that Sir A. Rollit's production is remarkable.

SOCIETY is mourning the death of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Victor Montagu, brother and heir presumptive of the Earl of Sandwich. The Admiral, who had attained a ripe age had seen much active service in many parts of the world, having fought in the Indian Mutiny and other campaigns. He was a close friend of King Edward, and their present Majesties, together with Queen Alexandra and Prince and Princess Christian were represented at the funeral service. A daughter of the Admiral married Mr. T. A. V. Best, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

ANOTHER recent death is that of Lieut.-General Sir George Bryan Milman, who has passed away at the advanced age of 92. General Milman, who had a most distinguished military career, having participated in the Relief of Lucknow, was better known in recent years as Major of the Tower of London, and thus a near neighbour of the West India Committee. Sir Bryan held this office for the remarkable period of 40 years.

THE record of Mr. J. R. Tinné as an oarsman at Oxford is recalled by the death of the Rev. Richard Tabourdin, an old "blue," with whom Mr. Tinné was associated. Both were members of the crew which in 1869 beat Cambridge in the fastest time on record for fixed seats. In the same year this crew also defeated Harvard in a four-oared race on the Thames. Mr. Tabourdin, who was 67 years of age, had held for the past ten years the Chaplaincy of the Royal Memorial Church at Cannes.

THE war is uniting the British and Belgian nations in more spheres than on the battlefield. We read daily of the absorption of the refugees in our national life, and of the education of Belgian children side by side with our own. Artists from Flanders whom the war has driven to our shores have not been idle during the period of their exile, and Grafton Galleries are now showing works executed by some thirty Belgian painters on our shores. These works for the most part represent landscapes of Devonshire, Wales, and the banks of the Thames.

PLAY-GOERS have been congratulating Sir George Alexander on the completion of 25 years of theatrical management. Sir George, by the way, in company with other ornaments of the stage took part in a special performance of "The School for Scandal," at Covent Garden Theatre, patronised by the King and Queen, in aid of the Actor's Benevolent Fund.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.



#### The West Indian Mail Service.

The R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, the second steamer to make the homeward voyage under the amended time-table which was scheduled to reach Falmouth on Saturday did not arrive there until Monday. Heroic efforts on the part of the CIRCULAR's printers enable us, however, to give extracts from the letters of our hon. Correspondents as usual. There can be no mistaking the intensity of the feeling of dissatisfaction at the way in which the time-table has been altered from that laid down by the contract. Thus, in the case of Trinidad and Tobago, the homeward steamer sailed on the day before the outward vessel arrived, thus leaving thirteen days "between mails," while London is left with only three days when the steamer arrives to time, and the midlands and north still less. The time-table is most inconvenient, and the Postmaster General should never have agreed to such a modification of the mail contract. Admitting that some alteration was necessary it should have been possible to devise some less inconvenient schedule. This, and the rise in freight and passenger charges is giving rise to much dissatisfaction, the existence of which the Royal Mail Steam packet Company would do well to recognise before the existing contract draws much nearer to its close.

Of outstanding interest in our Correspondents' letters is the account of Mr. Leslie Jarvis' adventures in the sloop *Southern Cross*. They read like a page from Southey's "Chronological History of the West Indies." To be adrift for 52 hours in a mastless sloop cannot have been a pleasant experience and the CIRCULAR joins with Mr. Penchoen and the people of Montserrat in congratulating Mr. Leslie Jarvis on his providential escape.

#### BARBADOS—The West Indian Mail Service.

The President of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, in a letter dated January 25th, referring to the correspondence between the West India Committee and the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the West India Mail Service published in the CIRCULAR of December 29th, writes:—

"The Council quite concur with the views expressed in the letter to the Under Secretary of State and approve the prompt action of the West India Committee in the matter.

"The Council are of the opinion that the outward mail service could easily be accelerated, and therefore give more time for answering letters on this side. I am to ask that you will kindly submit this point for the consideration of your Committee with this view, should they deem it fit, to urge for its consideration by the Royal Mail Company.

Mr. Edward Jemmott, brother of Mr. Arden Jemmott, and brother-in-law of the Rev. Herbert Alleyne, who recently returned from the United States, died on January 10th. Mr. Samuel Greenidge, Parochial Treasurer of St. James, died on the same day. The Royal Bank of Canada's new building in Bridgetown, completed at a cost of £15,000, has just been opened.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—The increase in fares and freights.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JANUARY 24th.—The weather is showery and favourable generally. Mr. David Clark, Deputy Manager of Port Mourant, has been appointed Manager of *La Bon Intention* in succession to Mr. Brice. The half-yearly general meeting of the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Company was held on January 13th, when a dividend of 3 per cent. on the scrip capital was declared. The meeting of the British Guiana Mutual Fire Insurance Company took place on the 18th, when a dividend of 1½ per cent. on the scrip capital was declared.

The mail edition of the *Demerara Chronicle* contains correspondence which has passed between the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Colonial Office, and the Government of British Guiana on the subject of the surcharge of 25 per cent. on transatlantic fares. The Company attributed the necessity for the rise to the surrender of their home base to meet the requirements of the military authorities, the great reduction in exports, the general falling away of passenger business, and the absence of tourist traffic, the high cost of war insurance, the increase in working expenses and the opposition of neutral tonnage. Mr. Harcourt asked whether the directors proposed to adhere to this decision in view of the recent reduction in the rate of war insurance, and he presumed that none of the inter-colonial fares would be increased. The Company replied that while it was not proposed to make any change in inter-colonial fares it would be necessary to adhere to the amended tariff of passenger rates for some time, and they pointed out that the Board of Trade had declined to make any reduction in the rates charged for the insurance of hulls.

#### BRITISH HONDURAS—The outlook for 1915.

HON. ALAN DREDGE, JANUARY 14th. We were all pleased, though not surprised, to hear of the appearance of H.E. Sir Wilfred Collet's name in the New Year's Honour List. He has the congratulations of the whole community. It is reported that His Honour R. B. Roden, late of St. Vincent, who was recently appointed Chief Justice of this Colony, is expected to arrive here in February. As anticipated, the Christmas hiring season passed off quietly, and business in Belize was probably worse than it has been at the corresponding period for very many years. There was scarcely any competition for labour and those labourers who were engaged, returned to the bush much earlier than usual. It is obvious that during the year 1915 the wood-cutting industry of the colony will be on a very reduced scale; all classes have made up their minds that they are in for a bad year commercially. Our wireless installation is now making rapid progress, and is expected to be ready to transmit or receive messages at an early date. The amounts collected in the colony on behalf of the British Red Cross Society, Prince of Wales' National Relief and Belgian Relief Funds aggregate to date approximately \$10,000.

#### DOMINICA—Lime flowering likely to be later.

MR. E. A. AGAR, JANUARY 22nd.—The weather has at last cleared up, and for the past fortnight hardly any rain has fallen; crops are already looking better for the sun; but the heavy rains have lasted so late that lime flowering for the crop will be later than usual, I think. We are being much inconvenienced by the irregularity of the English mails at the moment, and also by the fact that no one really knows how or when they are calling. It is, however, an astonishing thing that during the whole of this war, ships have been calling with the certainty of the most undisturbed peace conditions. The present trouble with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is a contrast.

**JAMAICA—A new park for St. James.**

The Parochial Board of St. James has accepted a piece of land forming part of Catherine Hall Estate from Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett for use as a pleasure park for the inhabitants of the Parish. The gift is for three years, and is renewable at the donor's discretion. A handstand is to be erected, and benches provided for the people.

The Phoenix Fruit Company is the name of a concern with a capital of £25,000, which has entered the local banana trade. The president is Mr. Cecil Lindo and the chairman Mr. F. Delisser. Mr. Henry William Griffith of Hodges Penn has been elected, unopposed, to represent St. Elizabeth in the Legislative Council, in the place of the late Hon. F. M. Farquharson.

**MONTSERRAT—An accident to the "Southern Cross."**

MR. K. P. PENCHOEN, JANUARY 22nd.—The outstanding feature of the fortnight has been an accident which befell our Acting Commissioner in the *Southern Cross*, a sloop subsidised for maintaining communication between Montserrat, Antigua and St. Kitts. Mr. Leslie Jarvis left Montserrat on Sunday, January 17, at 6 a.m. for Antigua, and 34 hours later the mast carried away when the sloop was about 25 miles south-east of Montserrat. The crew rigged jury masts, but could not make headway against the wind and current. At 5.30 p.m. they had drifted through the channel between Montserrat and Guadeloupe, and were 10 to 15 miles south-west of the former island. Two of the crew then volunteered to go on shore and obtain assistance. They had a terribly hard pull and did not succeed in reaching Montserrat until 8 a.m. on Monday morning. Meanwhile flashlight messages had been sent to the Governor in Antigua, who telegraphed to the neighbouring island asking for assistance in searching for the *Southern Cross*, which all the sloops that could be manned had failed to find. Commodore E. C. Benedict, owner of the American yacht *Oneida*, who happened to be in St. Kitts, very kindly put to sea at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 19th, and eventually picked up the missing sloop at 1.30 a.m. with all hands and passengers safe and sound, and towed her to Montserrat, where she arrived at about 7.30 p.m. The Administrator was none the worse for being 52 hours adrift in the frail craft, and was received with the wildest excitement by the people, the wharf being thronged with crowds cheering enthusiastically.

Our cotton crop is practically over; the second bearing has been most disappointing, more so than ever. The *SS. Salybia*, expected here on the 23rd, will take a considerable shipment of cotton, most or all being consigned to the R.C.G.A.

**ST. KITTS—The dislocation of the mail service.**

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, JANUARY 21st.—The present disarrangement of the mail service is unfortunate and irksome, and I hope matters will soon be re-adjusted and the service become as regular as before. But when we consider that the greatest war in history is raging, we must be thankful that we have not suffered more in this respect. There is nothing locally of interest to report, except that the Central Factory has commenced grinding operations this week. The last railway bridge spanning the Ghaunt between the Lodge or Bourryan Estates is now being erected and within another fortnight we hope the rail will be completed to take the canes from the Lower Bourryan, Molyneux, Mansion and Estridge Estates. The two latter estates will be somewhat heavily handicapped by long and difficult cartage to the Factory terminus, located near Christ Church on Mills' Estate. A very successful children's operetta "Peach Blossom," organised by Mrs. A. O.

Thurston, ably assisted by Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Tindale and others attracted an enthusiastic audience. The children showed evidence of excellent training, and the costumes, staging and lighting effects were very good for this part of the world. £19 was realised for the Belgian Relief Fund.

**ST. LUCIA—The Shipping Combine and after.**

HON. G. S. HUDSON, JANUARY 22nd.—The weather is pleasant and seasonable, dry and fine, with cold nights and mornings when the thermometer stands at about 65°F, and we imagining it is very cold are glad of a blanket on the bed, and think with a shudder what it must be like in the trenches. I think you will find public opinion throughout the West Indies entirely with you in the views expressed on the action of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in arbitrarily ignoring the convenience of the British and West Indian public in the matter of mail dates, and also in raising passenger and freight rates. A single first-class ticket between the Windward Islands and England now costs £31 5s., and the freight on cacao has been increased from 49s. 6d. to 75s. 7d. per ton: an increase of over 50 per cent., the only justification for which is our present helplessness. We are now being made to feel the effects of the steamship ring, and we shall resent it, and the companies will realise their mistake when they have thoroughly antagonised their customers. The small bait of rebate on primage will not for a moment hold shippers when competition arises, as it must sooner or later, or reduced competitive rates will not avail now that we understand the attitude of the ring. The Royal Mail give the West Indies a good service, and the West Indies have always shown their gratitude for it, but their present policy, if continued, in, will give rise to a very different feeling. I hope the West India Committee will take steps to organise and express the feeling elicited from the different islands on this subject.

**ST. VINCENT—Chief Justice Roden's departure.**

MR. W. N. SANDS, JANUARY 23rd.—Mr. Vincent Prior, our new Attorney General, arrived by last mail. Chief Justice Roden, who leaves for British Honduras to-morrow, was entertained at dinner by the members of the Kingstown Club last Thursday evening. There have been several social functions held in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Roden during the past few days and much general regret has been expressed at their leaving the Colony. Dr. Francis Watts, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mr. J. L. Fonda, representing the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association of Manchester, are expected to arrive on the 28th instant, and stay a few days.

**TOBAGO—Steamship Companies and the War.**

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JANUARY 25th.—There are no home letters to answer by this mail, as they don't come in till to-morrow. I fear this arrangement will please no one but the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who will economise one steamer most probably while increasing fares and freights almost 'beyond reason.' Whoever may suffer by the war, steamship companies are evidently trying to keep on the safe side. I have been in Trinidad for about a fortnight so that my Tobago news is perforce second hand. Cacao pickings are going on freely, but this will only last a few weeks longer. Hardly a drop of rain has fallen since the first week in January, and the ground is cracking from lack of moisture. This in January is a serious state of affairs. Most of the young crop has been lost, and unless exceptional weather is experienced very little cacao can be produced until Autumn. This and extra taxes and war conditions generally, is not an encouraging outlook for planters. Tobago has recently been visited by two American yachts. The latest the *Virginia*, sailing under an old

chart, ran aground off Scarborough, but fortunately was able to get off without serious damage. Several Trinidad visitors have been over lately, including Mr. Hancock, acting Inspector of Schools, who spent a week at Old Graunge House, near Plymouth. Many more would come but for lack of hotel accommodation. After the war, when so many blessings are expected, perhaps Tobago will succeed in establishing a suitable hotel, and thus attract visitors from far and near.

#### TRINIDAD—An interned German's diatribe.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JANUARY 25th. Just as the mail is closing the war news slip comes round with the splendid news of the sinking of the *Bucher*, whilst on another murderous expedition to the coast of England—a happy answer to the Scarborough and Whitty exploits. A short time ago there was a man named Fleischer here, employed as manager of the Singer Sewing Machine Agency: a German, of course, but one professing entire sympathy with the British. He had to leave with the others. The next we hear of him is through the columns of the venomous German American *Fatherland*, wherein he is quoted as describing the treatment of the German prisoners here as unspeakably bad and cruel. As a matter of fact they are a very pampered lot, and are treated with all reasonable consideration. But Fleischer had the imprudence to mention the name of Mr. McConnico, the U.S. Consul, as one aware of the facts. This has resulted in the Consul paying a visit to the St. James' barracks, where the prisoners are interned and making careful enquiries. The worst charge against the authorities was from one man who complained that the place was so cold, he "was freezing." A good many of us sigh for a similar experience sometimes. The Berlin authorities, as you will note, have not the absolute monopoly of the lie that is barefaced. However, Mr. McConnico went away perfectly satisfied, and Fleischer's little characteristic efforts in his Kaiser's cause will meet with all the official contradiction necessary.

The Conference Lines, viz.: The Royal Mail, the Royal Dutch Mail, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the London and Glasgow Direct, the Direct American, the Italian and the East Asiatic Lines have issued notice of a considerable rise in freights, and there is much grumbling and dissatisfaction among shippers.

The Cacao Committee, appointed to look after the colony's gift of £40,000 worth to the Imperial Government, are now making the necessary arrangements. They have appointed the Cacao Planters' Association as their buyers on a commission of 1 per cent. As this Association happens also to be large sellers of the article, the appointment is causing adverse comment, and it is urged that open tenders for the supply should have been called for, and very serious representations to that effect are being made. The weather for the past fortnight has been bright and sunny, with hardly any rain, just what was required for the coming sugar crop—which has excellent promise—and of great help in the drying of the unusually heavy pickings of cacao for the time of year, but rain is now wanted in moderation. The nights have been delightfully cool, making a couple of blankets very acceptable in the country districts especially.

#### Want.

**Wanted.**—By experienced Sugar Planter. Responsible position abroad.—Planter, c/o West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

#### DEATH.

**Goodwin.**—On February 3rd, Mr. William Goodwin, in his 80th year.

## WHAT IS COCOA ?

At Faversham County Petty Sessions, Charlotte Hunt (trading as Hunt and Co., grocers, etc.), Green Street, was, according to the *Grocers' Review*, summoned under the Foods and Drugs Act for selling cocoa that was not of the substance and quality demanded. From the certificate of the analyst, it appeared that the cocoa (sold at 6d. per lb.) contained 42 per cent. of added sugar, and 33 per cent. of added starch. Mr. William Hunt, who appeared for his wife (the defendant), said that the sale of the article was admitted, but not as pure cocoa. One would think everyone knew that pure cocoa could not be sold at 6d. per lb. It was the practice when selling this particular cocoa to attach a protecting label (specimens produced), but, unfortunately, in this assistance a new assistant, who served it, omitted to attach the label. This was the first case they had ever had against them during their thirty years in business. All the samples taken from their shop for analysis previously had been certified pure. The magistrates took into account the fact that it was a first offence, and imposed a penalty of only 5s., with 14s. costs.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

*The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.*

#### The West Indian Mail Service.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—Mr. Abbott's letter in your issue of 26th is interesting. From my previous contributions to the subject you will hardly be surprised that I rather relish the present tangle. One proper service under a sensible business contract would be much better than the existing two, which are very unsatisfactory for the money paid.

Your Editor's note might have extended further and explained why the Colonial Office and the West Indies, who pay the piper, were not consulted by the Postmaster General.

I am, etc., GUY WYATT.

Cheltenham, 28th January, 1915.

## WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gavillet), Feb. 5th, "Few showers have fallen, but more rain is much wanted." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), Feb. 1st, "Weather dry"; (Messrs. Henry K. Dawson and Co.), Feb. 3rd, "Weather is favourable for the growing crops"; (Messrs. Booker Bros., McCounell and Co., Ltd.), Feb. 4th, "Heavy rains generally"; (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), Feb. 8th, "Rainfall excessive Albion favourable." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co.), Week ending Jan. 13th, Port Antonio "Rainy," Kingston "Fine,"; week ending Jan. 20th, Port Antonio, 14th to 16th, "Fair"; 17th to 19th, "Rain"; 20th, "Fine." Kingston, 14th to 15th, "Fine"; 16th, "Rain"; 17th to 18th, "Fine"; 19th, "Rain"; 20th, "Fine." **Trinidad** (Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd.), Feb. 1st, "Weather continues favourable."

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

**The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.**

The Directors in their report for the year ended December 31st last state that the working of the Association during a period of great difficulty has resulted in an increased profit. After providing for Directors' Fees, writing 10 per cent. off the value of plant, machinery, etc., and providing for bail and doubtful debts, the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent per annum. They regret that owing to the state of his health, Mr. C. A. Philip, manager, has been unable to resume his duties.

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Essequibo, (Captain W. C. Barrett), Feb. 11th:—**

Mr. John T. Greg Rev. and Mrs. F. H. Hammond Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Rust Mr. Albert Steer Misses Hutchinson (2) Mrs. & Miss Rainey Captain R. A. Rakin Miss Rust Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Barron Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Hart Mr. W. A. Farmer Mr. A. P. Byers Dr. & Mrs. J. R. Conyers Mr. James Henry Pibel Mr. J. K. D. Hill Mr. D. D. Middleton

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Tagus, (Captain E. W. Morrison), Feb. 24th:—**

Miss M. Gioannetti Mrs. C. Sadler Mr. J. S. de la Mothe

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Trent, March 10th:—**

Mr. S. C. Harland Mr. & Mrs. A. Mahaffy Mrs. S. Mahaffy

Latest Quotations.		Panama Feb. 8.
4 1/2 %	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	97 xd
3 1/2 %	Barbados 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	85
4 1/2 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1935	98
4 1/2 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	76 xd.
4 1/2 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	96
4 1/2 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1934	99 xd.
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	77
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1927-44	78
4 1/2 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	97 xd.
4 1/2 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	98
3 1/2 %	Trinidad 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1922-44	77
5 %	The Colonial Bank ...	5 1/2
7 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	87 1/2
7 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	99 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	102
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	104
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100 1/2
5 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	10 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	103 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	109 1/2
4 1/2 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (67 shares)	26
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	35 1/2
7 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	106 1/2
7 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ...	82 1/2
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	80 1/2
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	99
1/6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd Ordinary ...	12
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd 6 % Com. 1st Pref	8 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd " " 2nd " "	8 1/2
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd 5 % Debentures ...	99 1/2

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
Jan. 1 to Jan. 14 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 1914	1913
Sugar ...	2,874	1,535 Tons.	15,583
Molasses ...	...	308 Puns.	6,317 Tons.
Rum ...	211,779	14,478 Proof Galls.	1,086,405
Molassesit. &c. ...	...	26 54 Tons.	1,017,751 Galls.
Cocoa ...	6,448	2,085 lbs.	8,470,448
Coffee ...	160	...	5,593,728 lbs.
Coco-nuts ...	25,760	40,000 No.	8,858,222
Oranges ...	...	...	6,889,456
Bananas ...	...	...	29,312,230
Cotton ...	...	...	23,671,229 No.
Pimento ...	...	...	14,681,650
Ginger ...	...	...	45,513,653
Honey ...	...	...	16,251,860
Dyewoods ...	...	...	11,419,288 Stems
Gold ...	4,917	3,087 ozs.	33,357
Diamonds ...	...	904 Carats.	87,281
Rice ...	1,327,413	565,890 lbs.	138,803 Cwts
Balata ...	42,221	7,294	16,831
Rubber ...	...	...	145,951
Timber ...	...	...	121,479 Galls.
Lumber ...	601	...	60,659
Lime (citrate of) ...	...	...	30,803 Tons

St. Vincent.	
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 1914	1913
Arrwt. 3,797,326	...
Cacao 238,359	...
Cotton 520,666	...
Seed 798,028	...

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. F. E. Everington	Mr. G. Raiton
Mr. A. F. Anderson	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. H. G. Braddon	Mr. M. A. French, J.P.	His Honour Mr. Justice P. M. C. Sheriff
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. Wm. Smith and Mr. J. D. Wall
Mr. A. E. Brait	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart	
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke	Mr. A. S. Kernahan	
Mr. A. Campbell	Mr. J. A. Madgwick	
1st. Col. W. B. Davison-Houston, C.M.G.		
Mr. G. Carew, "Greylands," Ashburton Devon.		
Mr. E. P. Gladwin, "Homelacy," St. Andrews Road, Portslade, Sussex.		
Mr. N. Scott Johnson, 25, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.		
Sir Frederic M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.		
Major O. H. E. Marescaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.		
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.		
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.		
Dr. A. T. Ozzard, c/o Messrs. Holt & Co., Woodhead's Branch, 44, Charing Cross, W.C.		
Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.		

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Danube, (Commander W. Barrett), Newport, Jan 25th:—

Miss S. Bell	Miss H. Harford	Mr. F. Sorzano
Mr. E. V. Bishop	Mr. F. Mackey	Dr. W. Steele
Mr. R. Chamberlain	Mr. D. R. Mason	Miss Tait
Mr. M. G. Coombs	Mr. F. Matthews	Miss J. Tait
Mr. T. E. Coombs	Miss D. McLellan	Mr. R. A. Watson
Miss Fleming	Mr. J. Parnell	Miss M. Wylie
Mr. D. de Freitas	Miss M. Sanderson	
Mr. P. Glean	Mr. H. Smith	

Trinidad.		Barbados.	
Jan. 1 to Jan. 26 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 1914	1913
Sugar ...	121	1 Tons.	33,267
Molasses ...	306	165 Puns.	11,124 Tons.
Rum ...	...	30	82,090 Puns.
Coco-nuts ...	57,530	339,190 No.	...
Asphalt ...	2,576	3,063 Tons.	...
Manjak ...	...	7	...
Bitters ...	931	650 Cases.	...
Coffee ...	...	...	...
Crude Petrol ...	20,680	11,000 Galls.	...
Cocoa ...	3,581,200	7,504,400 lbs.	4,426,200
Cotton ...	...	...	3,051,360 lbs.
Seed ...	...	...	...
Copra ...	300	345 Bags.	96
Spice ...	...	...	336,810
Kola ...	...	...	2,090

Grenada.	
Oct. 1 to Jan. 24 1914/15	1913/14
...	...

Dominica		
Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 1914.	1913.	
Cacao ...	532,672	808,192 lbs.
Limes ...	43,342	39,026 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw ...	235,037	283,137 galls.
" " concentrated	85,994	43,784
" " Citrate of ...	4,272	1,614 cwt.
Lime Oil, distilled	2,930	2,714 galls.
" " equalled	1,037	641
Hardwood ...	56,121	69,416 feet.
Bananas ...	2,399	2,732 stems
Coconuts ...	109,346	320,181 No.

The new edition of the Pocket Guide to the West Indies (5s. net) includes chapters on British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bermudas, the Bahamas, the Spanish Main, and the Panama Canal.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.



**THE BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from August 8th last year. The War Loan is quoted at discount. The first company to issue its prospectus under the new Government regulations is the Cuba-Bartle Sugar Plantations, Limited. As one of the chief objects of the Government was to prevent money going abroad, this may be regarded as an indication that the new regulations will be very elastic.

**SUGAR**—Nothing is yet known as to what the future action of the Royal Sugar Commission will be; but as existing supplies will not carry the Government beyond April or May some decision must soon be arrived at. One difficulty of the position lies in the deficient refining capacity of this country. This leads to a demand for grocery sugars, which are not always obtainable, except in the form of American granulated and Dutch cubes in the absence of the Java crop. As regards the import prohibition, Mr. McKenna's statement in the House of Commons on the 4th that if American sugar were sent here it would be replaced in America by enemy sugar, that the object of the prohibition was to prevent this, and, further, that the Government were in possession of documentary evidence as to such replacements, is interesting when taken in conjunction with the fact that thousands of tons of American granulated have been imported by the Government since August 4th last.

In the London market, prices remain practically unchanged since our last issue. American granulated is quoted at 27s. 6d.; Tate's cubes at 31s.; and White Java at 26s. White Mozambique sugar has sold at 26s. 6d. As regards West Indian sugars. On the 2nd 3,423 bags Demerara crystallised mostly sold at 26s. 6d. to 28s. 3d. On the 5th sales included 999 bags crystallised Trinidad partly sold at 26s. 6d. to 26s. 9d.; 2,081 bags crystallised Demerara mostly sold at 26s. 6d. to 27s. 3d.; 215 bags Demerara syrups at 16s. 3d. to 18s. 3d.; and 1,111 bags of Trinidad syrups part sold at 14s. 9d.

The West Indian Sugar Statistics from the 1st to 30th January are as follows:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Imports	3,983	3,870	4,885	2,154	4,587	Tons
Deliveries	3,240	2,995	2,853	2,895	3,588	..
Stock on Jan. 30	6,752	13,481	3,871	3,749	5,357	..

A substantial rise has taken place in the New York market, Cuban 66° duty paid sugar which on the 25th Jan. was quoted at 4.11c. now standing at 4.77c. The rise may be attributed to the unsatisfactory weather conditions at the commencement of crop, which have led not only to a lower output than usual, but also to an abnormally low sugar content of the juice, and to a demand from outside sources, France requiring sugars to make up her crop deficiencies. A contributory cause is the shortage of shipping facilities, owing to the commandeering of ships by the Home Government, and to the increase in the export trade of the United States since the outbreak of the war. The actual position as regards the Cuban crop appears to be that while there are enough canes on the ground to make over 2,600,000 tons even with the poorer quality of juice, it will be impossible for the factories to deal with the crop entirely unless exceptionally favourable crop weather obtains to a far later period than usual in the year. On the other hand, a shortage in the Cuban crop will undoubtedly be met to some extent by lessened imports into India. Under normal conditions that country now takes about 800,000 tons of outside sugar per annum. Since the outbreak of the war the Indian imports have been very greatly reduced, and with the happy knack that country possesses of doing without outside sugar in times of emergency, it may be expected the Indian requirements will be a long way short of the usual. In the

Royal Proclamation regarding prohibited exports published in the London Gazette of the 3rd, sugar is exempted in so far as exports to British possessions are concerned.

**RUM**—The stocks in London on the 30th January were:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica	5,605	5,956	6,722	8,242	8,385	Puns
Demerara	5,689	8,730	7,612	6,439	7,167	..
Total, all kinds	16,799	21,544	22,525	22,860	24,303	..

No change has taken place in the condition of the market, which is very strong. Business, however, is greatly retarded by the extreme difficulty in obtaining samples from the docks.

**CACAO**—Owing to the export prohibition having been removed, prices have advanced, mostly 8s. to 10s. At sales on the 2nd, 145 bags middling red Trinidad were sold at 80s., 173 bags Grenada fine sold at 76s. to 79s., and 91 bags Dominica, 54 bags St. Lucia, 338 bags Jamaica, and 101 bags St. Vincent sold at full prices on the parity of Grenada. The only effect of the recent brief prohibition has, therefore, been temporarily to lower values and enable cocoa manufacturers to replenish their stocks at a cost below what would have otherwise been the case. There is still prohibition of the export of cocoa powder to all European countries other than those of France, Russia, Belgium, Spain and Portugal.

The following were the stocks in London on the 30th January:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Trinidad	6,061	7,891	3,885	3,892	4,642	Bags
Grenada	3,313	6,454	3,175	9,654	12,406	..
Total, all kinds	52,302	81,773	68,110	108,045	98,523	..

**COTTON**—Since our last report West Indian Sea Island cotton has been neglected, the only sale reported being 6 bales St. Kitts at 15d.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Juice (Raw)—Small sales are reported of good Dominica at 2s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. for common; and of common to fair Jamaica at 1s. 9d. to 2s. 3d. Concentrated—No business is reported. Quotations are unchanged but tending easier. Lime Oil has been very slow of sale. Distilled, small sales at 2s. 6d.; hand pressed, no business to report.

**NUTMEGS and MACE**—No auctions have taken place during the fortnight, and the market is unchanged.

**LOGWOOD**—Prices rule low and would improve if "producers" in Jamaica were to combine. Quotation £4 10s.

**COPRA**—The market for copra is firm, fair merchantable West India being quoted at £26.

**ARROWROOT**—Sales during the fortnight amount to barely 100 barrels at 2½d. to 4½d. Quotations may be taken as 1½d. to 4½d.

**RUBBER**—No material change has taken place in the market. Fine plantation is quoted at 2s. 2½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 4d., fine hard Para at 2s. 6d.; fine soft Para at 2s. 3d.; Castilloa sheet at 1s. 10½d., and Castilloa scrap at 1s. 5d. By the recent Proclamation, rubber can only be exported to British possessions.

**BALATA**—Unlike rubber, balata is not included in the export prohibition list. Quotations are 2s. 2½d. for sheet, landed terms, and 1s. 10½d. for block, c.i.f., or 2s. 0½d. landed.

**TIMBER**—Mahogany—No sales by auction during the fortnight. Although sales are nominal the tone of the market for good squared logs is satisfactory. Honduras is quoted at from 5½d. to 7d. Cedar—There has been a fair demand for better class logs, and considerable sales have been effected in Trinidad, which will relieve the market. The price for Trinidad may be taken as from 3d. to 4½d. Satinwood—No demand for Jamaica, quotation £4 to £8. Lignum Vitae—Good sizeable pieces would realise fair prices. Quotations £3 to £7.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—No change in American, which is quoted at 7½d.; Water White is lower at 8d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALI.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXX.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

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15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.4.  
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON.  
February 22nd, 1915

### SUGAR AND THE WAR.

THE views of the West India Committee as to the steps which should be taken to develop the British sugar industry, and render this country independent of foreign sources of supply, are crystallised in a resolution adopted by the Executive at a meeting held on February 11th, the text of which is published in another column in the present issue. The outbreak of war found us dependent upon foreign countries for no less than 95 per cent. of our sugar supplies. We were relying upon the Continent of Europe for 80 per cent. of our requirements, and we were drawing over 60 per cent. from Germany and Austria. To remedy this state of affairs the Committee advocate the granting of an adequate preference for British over foreign sugar for a period of at least ten years. This would have the double result of assisting the establishment of a beet sugar industry in this country, if this is proved to be practicable, and of bringing about the development of the Colonial cane sugar industry, for which immense scope exists. As the result of the enquiries which they recently made the West India

Committee now have figures to prove that the existing colonial sources supply could in a few years time produce far more than enough sugar for the mother country's needs, provided that market conditions remained favourable. It has been urged that the Protocol of the Sugar Convention of 1902 which embodied the Declaration of the British Government not to give a preference to the colonies or a preference to cane over beet is an obstacle. But though the Government when they denounced the Convention in 1912 pledged themselves to continue to adhere to the fundamental principles of the agreement they reserved to themselves the right of ceasing to do so on giving six months notice to the signatories. We certainly think that the time has come when such notice should be given. The pledge not to give a preference to the colonies was a mistake from the start. The other Powers represented at the Brussels Convention never urged it, and we have the best authority for stating that their delegates were greatly surprised, when, after a speech from the Netherlands representative stating that Holland never gave a preference or assistance to her sugar producers, Sir Constantine Phipps announced that Great Britain would agree not to give a preference to colonial cane sugar during the currency of the Convention. It was generally recognised that this additional sop to the Powers was an altogether unnecessary act of abnegation. But in any case the circumstances are now so greatly altered that an announcement by Great Britain of her intention to assist her colonies could give no offence. Germany and Austria no longer deserve consideration. France which herself gives a preference in the form of a "détaxe de distance" to Martinique and Guadeloupe could not object; nor could Russia, whose sugar can only come here in strictly limited quantities. It has been argued that if we were to cease to adhere to the principles of the Convention there would be danger of our exports of sugared products being penalised. But under existing conditions we believe this argument to be altogether illusory; besides would it be necessary to cease to adhere to the fundamental principles of the Convention? There is a wide difference between granting a bounty and giving a preference to the colonies. Even if the present war is brought to a close in the very near future, as we earnestly hope it may be, increased taxation will be necessary for many years to come to pay for its cost. In the circumstances it would seem that an increase of the sugar tax would be more probable than a reduction, and we believe that the time will come when sugar users and producers will be united in favour of a preference for the



British colonies and home producers. Apart from sentimental reasons, and all that the colonies are doing in this great war will call for some recognition, such a preferential treatment of British sugar should appeal as a business proposition to the sugar using trades and the general consumer. For it must also be remembered that the establishment of a British Imperial sugar industry on sound lines would be the best guarantee against the recurrence of the shortage of one of our chief items of food with which we were faced at the outset of the war, and of the assurance of a steady supply of sugar at moderate prices. During the last few weeks this question has been ventilated by an informative paper read by MR. DAVSON before the Royal Society of Arts, by an interesting discussion raised by MR. EASTICK at the Society of Chemical Industry, and by an article in the *Nineteenth Century* by MR. F. I. SCARD, and contributions to the press by MR. C. SANDBACH PARKER and MR. GUY WYATT. The political truce must be strictly observed, but the future of sugar is, we maintain, a matter of paramount importance to this country, which should be raised beyond the level of party politics.

#### IN PRAISE OF RUM.

**T**HERE has always been a fine flavour of tradition attached to rum. The great naval and military deeds of the past were done by men whose daily diet included that excellent spirit, and, if in the present time constitutional circumstances have changed to such an extent that large doses of alcohol are neither required nor wanted, in times of stress rum comes to the front again as an invaluable soother of highly-taxed nerves. At one time rum was a popular drink among the lower classes in England, and, indeed, in the form of punch, among the middle and upper. In 1802, when the population of Great Britain and Ireland was sixteen and a half millions, between five and a half and six million gallons of rum were consumed here. Last year, with a population of nearly forty-six millions, the consumption was under three and a half million gallons. Of recent years, however, while the consumption of other spirits has remained stationary or declined, there has been a distinct tendency towards a recrudescence of the rum habit. This has been accentuated since the outbreak of the war. Reference elsewhere in these columns to figures given in the House of Commons on the 16th of February shows that while the consumption of home-made spirits has remained constant, and of imported foreign spirits—brandy and Geneva—has declined, that of rum has increased by 24 per cent. This increase does not include the consumption of rum in the Navy and Army, but consists of rum which has paid duty. In spite of all that teetotallers say, there is not the slightest doubt that spirits taken in moderation, and at the psychological, and we may also say, the physiological moment, are invaluable. DR. GASTINEAU EARLE, in the course of a

lecture on "The Food Factor in War," delivered recently at the Institute of Hygiene, mentioned how valuable a food alcohol was, especially when men were fatigued, and how it acted as a valuable aid to the digestion, and absorption of other food-stuffs. Further, he stated that rum was the most wholesome spirit obtainable. Indeed, that rum has been selected as the most suitable form in which the alcohol can be administered to meet the requirements of the Army in the front is in distinct accordance with the medical views of the value of this particular form of spirit. The ethereal contents of rum are peculiarly stimulating in the highest sense. Our readers will have enjoyed MR. ARTHUR MACHEN's excellent and fascinating article on rum which appeared in the *Evening News*, and was reproduced in great part in our last issue. In it due and merited justice was paid to this grand old spirit. Rum is a pure spirit, not the blended result of spirit from various forms of raw material. It has to be made where the sugar-cane grows, and from sugar-cane products. Although we cannot expect that a rum and soda will ever take the place of whisky or brandy and soda, we may expect that as a reliever of fatigue, as a mental and digestive stimulant, it will again assume a popular place in the public fancy.

#### "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR."

**N**OT the least important part of a newspaper or periodical is that devoted to correspondence. The space set apart for "Letters to the Editor," besides giving readers an opportunity of making their views on various subjects known, helps the Editor to gauge the trend of public opinion—a matter of no small difficulty where he is of necessity separated from so many readers by four thousand miles of ocean. This being so we should like to call especial attention to the valuable medium the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR affords for the interchange of views on subjects of interest in connection with the West Indies in particular and the colonies in general; both as regards domestic and Imperial matters. While, of course, we cannot undertake to publish all letters that are submitted to us—there is such a thing as a law of libel from which even Editors are not exempt and while editorial discretion as to what is likely to be of general interest or suitable must be exercised, we cordially invite our readers to avail themselves of the columns of the CIRCULAR for the ventilation of the many problems connected with the West Indies and their social, commercial and political development. In respect to social and commercial matters, there are many points which should also form fruitful subjects of discussion, and we hope that our readers will not hesitate to avail themselves of the CIRCULAR in this respect, remembering in so doing that brevity is the soul of wit, and that personalities should be always avoided.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**The future of the British Sugar Industry.**

The monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on Thursday, February 11th, Mr. R. Rutherford presiding. Those present were: Mr. George Carrington, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. Mr. Middleton Campbell, who had been detained at the Bank of England, joined the meeting before its close.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported the proceedings of a meeting of the consignees receiving goods ex *Magdalena* held on January 20th, and the correspondence on the subject (see CIRCULAR, No. 426, page 27) was approved.

The Secretary reported that the total membership was 1547, and the following were admitted members of the West India Committee:—

Names.	Proposers and Secondors.
Mr. Paitfield Mills, (Nevis)	{ Mr. H. Crum Ewing. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. J. C. Shaw (Tobago)	{ Mr. Robert S. Reid. { Mr. F. A. Gray.
Mr. G. David Hatt (Tobago)	{ Mr. Robert S. Reid. { Mr. James Fraser.
Mr. Alexander Stewart (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Crum Ewing. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. E. A. Inmiss (British Guiana)	{ Mr. H. Crum Ewing. { Mr. C. Sandbach Parker.
Mr. Abraham Vanier (British Guiana)	{ Mr. Edward R. Davson. { Mr. C. Sandbach Parker.
Mr. Alfred E. Owen (St. Kitts)	{ Mr. Carter Rey. { Mr. H. Crum Ewing.

The Sugar Sub-Committee presented their report and the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

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.

The Chairman took the opportunity of thanking Mr. Edward R. Davson for his paper "Sugar and the War," which he read before the Society of Arts on February 2nd.

The following letter sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 3rd, on the subject of East Indian Immigration was approved.

**East Indian Immigration.**

The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane,  
3rd February.

Sir,

I have the honour, by direction of my Committee, to address you on the subject of immigration from the East Indies to British Guiana and Trinidad.

2. As the West India Committee have frequently pointed out to you, Sir, and to your predecessors, the continuance of such immigration is of vital importance to the sugar industry of British Guiana and Trinidad, and scarcely less so to the cacao industry of the last named Colony, in which large numbers of East Indians are now employed.

3. The gradual cessation of work on the Panama Canal has not yet resulted in any appreciable addition to the labour supply in the British West Indies, and the various attempts which have been made to arrange immigration into the Colonies most needing it from neighbouring Islands have not proved successful. Experience, too, has shown that higher wages do not in British Guiana, attract local black labourers in sufficient numbers because the men prefer the intermittent work offered by the gold and halata industries to the continuous work which is essential to the sugar industry.

4. The West India Committee fully appreciate the circumstances which necessitated the temporary suspension of immigration, and the closing of the agencies at Calcutta, on the outbreak of war. While, however, they have no wish to embarrass the Government, they desire to urge that now that ocean traffic is more normal, the question of immigration may be immediately considered with a view to a resumption of the introduction of East Indian immigrants into British Guiana and Trinidad next season. This is specially important at the present time, if, as we believe to be the case, the Government desire to develop the production of sugar within the Empire, instead of allowing the sugar-using industries and the consumers generally in this country to rely for their supplies of raw material solely on foreign countries, as they have done for so many years past.

5. The production of sugar in British Guiana and the British West Indies, can, we are confident, be largely extended; but no material influx of capital for the erection of factories can be looked for unless the labour supply is well maintained and a permanent footing for British Colonial sugar in this market is secured by a preferential tariff, on the lines of that whereby the Government are at present attempting to develop the beet industry in this country, which would offer inducement for the investment of capital.

6. Trusting that these representations may receive your early consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

The Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, P.C., M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office, Downing Street.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 is. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading

Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

During the year to date 21 new members have been elected, residing in the following places:—

Barbados	1	Norfolk	1
British Guiana	1	St. Kitts	1
Tobago	1	London	1
Jamaica	1	Country	1

#### Passports for Members.

Full particulars regarding Passports—with which passengers to the West Indies are recommended to furnish themselves—can be obtained from the West India Committee, whose Secretary, being a Barrister-at-law, is entitled to, and will be glad to, verify the necessary declarations by members of the Committee.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### In the Western Front.

As Sir John French has explained in his recent despatch the wintry weather seriously hampers war carried on under modern conditions. A fire-swept zone must be crossed rapidly in the attack, but how are soldiers to do that when they have to scramble out of water-logged trenches, and advance over ground knee-deep in holding mud and slush? Then armies now largely rely on air reconnaissance, which is to a great extent dependent on wind and weather, and long range artillery fire needs the nicest and most constant observation, which it is impossible to obtain in fog or mist. For these and other reasons little change is reported in the West. Many artillery actions have taken place, and several "coups de main" delivered by the Allies, who content themselves with repulsing the local attacks of the enemy, missing no opportunity for scoring a success, and making the most of it when it is won. It was feared that prolonged fighting in the trenches would take the keen edge off the quality of our soldiers. But nothing of the kind has happened. They are just as ready to seize the chance of a counter attack as ever.

#### A Belgian Success.

This was a happy result of Allied initiative. It was carried out by means of a ruse by Moroccan Goumiers, who fastened themselves under the bodies of their horses. The Germans seeing a chance of capturing fresh mounts as they thought, allowed themselves to be drawn into a chase, when the Belgians, who had been lying in wait, seized the deserted trenches of the Great Dune, and have not since been dislodged. The position is an important one, for the possession of which fighting has been going on intermittently for some time.

#### Struggle in the Argonne.

Here fighting is always more or less desperate, for south of the district is the railway line from St. Menchould to Verdun. This vital strategic communication is the object of the enemy's vain efforts to pierce the Allied line anywhere in the vast

forest, which covers the lower slopes of a chain of wild hills that run laterally to the Oise and the Aisne. At present the fury of the German attacks centres in the wood of La Grurie. So close are the trenches that hand grenades can easily be thrown from the French to the German side, and the men are able to hurl insults and invectives at one another. In front of the enemy's lines lie mounds of dead, callousness which is not shared by the Allies. They suffer from it, however, especially when the wind is in the east, the air blown to the French trenches being infected with decay, and necessitating the most stringent sanitary precautions.

#### On the Eastern Front.

Marshal von Hindenburg's bull-headed attacks in the centre having failed to break the Russian line, and enable him to reach Warsaw, a change of plan has secretly been carried out, though it is but a repetition of the move in East Prussia, which brought about the defeat of the Russians in August last. But it was dearly bought, since the concentration of troops required for the effort so weakened the German front in France, that the Allies were able to win the Battle of the Marne. Behind the Masurian Lakes, which acted as a screen, the enemy massed, it is reported, four army corps, and fell upon the the Russians, who were forced back, not without loss, upon the Niewen. But this flanking movement can benefit the enemy only in keeping up the public spirit, which must hear of victories at intervals; for, once the strategic railways near the frontier are left behind, the country is wild and inhospitable, the roads impassable, and nothing left that could be taken away by the Russians. Beyond are fortresses, strongly held.

#### "Midst the Wild Carpathians."

Simultaneously with the offensive at the northern end of the seven hundred mile front, the Germans have concentrated in the Carpathians, resulting in one of the bloodiest fights of the war. At one point, Koziomoka, they hurled themselves against the Russians in massed formation, several ranks deep, twenty-two times, and twice seized one of the heights. They were driven out by a counter-attack after a bayonet engagement unprecedented in history. The carnage was appalling, the snow-clad mountain slopes being strewn with German dead.

In the Bukovina, however, the Russians have had to retire before the Austrian advance, though they are holding their own in the Dukla Pass region. Evidently the German move in the north is a distraction to enable the German forces, which are reported to be concentrating on the Carpathian front to check the activity of the Russians left flank. The Hungarian region, hitherto secondary in the war plans of the Great General Staff, is, with the march of events, assuming primary importance.

#### The United States and the Enemy.

The threat to blockade Great Britain, and destroy all neutral shipping within the prescribed area has



**CASTLETON GARDENS, JAMAICA.**

From a photograph taken by the Duchess of Sutherland.

roused the Government at Washington. In a Note, whose phrasing was not too diplomatic to conceal the American resolve to resist German piracy by force of arms if need be, it was pointed out that to sink neutral vessels at sight, was unknown in the history of civilised warfare. Even when they contain contraband sea law directs that they shall be taken to the nearest port for the decision of a Prize Court. President Wilson, also, warns the Germans that to torpedo belligerent merchantmen with American citizens on board will be regarded by the United States as an unfriendly act. As for the enemy's bribe to allow American shipping to go free if America will sanction piratical methods directed against England, no notice has been taken of it. The German cry is that this country is attempting to starve the civilian population of Germany, and that, therefore, "frightfulness" may justifiably be employed against her. But the Americans say, wisely, that, if the enemy does not like the pressure of the British Navy, the sanction for which is legal, moral and military, she has her remedy, and that is to end the war (1) by surrender, (2) by exerting superior force. As she is prepared to do neither she has the effrontery to ask the neutral Powers to allow her to be put on a greater equality with England on the sea by declaring a blockade, which she cannot make effective. Her alternative is piracy. The reply of America to that open threat is to make a veiled one of her own with war as the end. The reply of England to the German threat of a false blockade is to establish a real blockade.

#### British Naval Rights Resumed.

At last the Navy is to exercise its full powers. Hitherto, out of regard for the susceptibilities of neutrals, Germany has been allowed to receive supplies of food and raw material indirectly. According to the First Lord's statement in the House of Commons on February 15th, more stringent measures are to be taken. The Navy is to play its proper part in ending the war by cutting off, not only the stream of commodities necessary to preserve life in the enemy's territory, but the stream of commodities necessary to the manufacture of explosives and weapons for the destruction of life in the Allied lines. That is to say the Germans are to be forced into surrender by the fear of starvation, surely a more humane method than the carnage of war, and they are not to be allowed to keep up the supply of arms to their soldiers in the field. Sea-power is to exert the pressure which will shortly strangle Germany's whole economic existence. The Declarations and Conventions, whose only effect was to cripple England's Navy in the interests of Continental military Powers, have died of their own ineptitude. The Nation will now be guided by sea law as it was understood and practised in all the great wars of the past, for her greater glory and honour.

#### Germany and her Food Supply.

Has there been a miscalculation here as in so many other directions? If not it is difficult to

account for the enemy's frantic challenge to the whole world. In the first place the war was not expected to last more than six months, in the second place, in estimating Germany's resources, it must have been forgotten that the supplies, which used to cross the border from Russia and the Balkans, are now cut off. The Government, in taking over the Empire's stock of food, made a desperate attempt to retrieve their blunder. But it has enabled England to turn the sharp, instead of the dull, edge of her most potent weapon against the enemy, and provoked serious friction with neutral Powers, particularly America. For, if the State is in possession of the food resources of the country, the fictitious distinction between combatants and non-combatants disappears. Germany has thrown away her best card, and played into the hands of England.

#### Great British Air Raid.

A fleet of aeroplanes and seaplanes has raided Ostend, Blankenberghe, and Zeebrugge on the Belgian littoral. There were thirty-four of them and their flight across the Channel was the most wonderful sight in the history of aviation. In their course they looked like a flock of huge sea-birds. It has been said that, as British pilots learn to fly in England, whose atmospheric conditions are continually changing, they can fly anywhere. Certain it is that in the handling of their machines they are second to none, and easily first in successfully carrying out operations on a large scale. In their latest exploit they are reported to have done considerable damage to the naval stations at Blankenberghe and Ostend, and, at Zeebrugge, the electricity works suffered, while a Zeppelin shed with the whole of its contents was destroyed. There was no mishap on our side either to men or aircraft. A similar raid was carried through a few days later. Bombs were dropped on gun positions, transport waggons, barges, trawlers, and on the Mole at Zeebrugge to widen the breach caused by former attacks. Eight French aeroplanes assisted by causing a diversion so as to prevent the German aircraft from cutting off the British machines. The activity of the bases, from which Germany has been working to strike at England, will be curtailed for some time.

#### The "Wilhelmina."

Even the winds and the waves seem to be fighting against Germany. The ship, bound from New York to Hamburg, and laden with foodstuffs, has been obliged to put into Falmouth under stress of weather. What is to be done with her has not yet been decided. The *Wilhelmina* is herself, of course, immune. It is her cargo that is the source of the trouble. The owners still claim that it is for the use, not of the German Army and Government, but of the civilian population, a distinction which is wholly inadmissible, since, in actuality, it does not exist. A suggestion has been made that the food should be sent to Belgium, whose remnants of population would starve but for the efforts of neutral countries.

## FRANK ALEXANDER DE PASS, V.C.

It was announced in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on February 19th, that His Majesty the King had been pleased to approve of the grant of a Victoria Cross to Lieut. Frank Alexander de Pass, late 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse, for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty whilst serving with the Expeditionary Force.

It is deeply to be regretted that Lieutenant de Pass did not live to enjoy the honour—the highest in the gift of the King for military valour—conferred on him, which will, however, we may hope, help to soften the grief felt by his parents at the loss of their gallant son. Lieutenant de Pass was the second son of Mr. Eliot Arthur de Pass, West India Mer-



Lieut. Frank Alexander de Pass, V.C.

chant, and a valued member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and of Mrs. de Pass, who is a daughter of the late Mr. I. H. De Mercado, of Kingston, Jamaica. The reason for the award of the Victoria Cross is given in the *Gazette* in the following terms:—

"For conspicuous bravery near Festubert on the 24th November, in entering a German sap and destroying a traverse in the face of the enemy's bombs, and for subsequently rescuing, under heavy fire, a wounded man who was lying exposed in the open. Lieutenant de Pass lost his life on this day in a second attempt to capture the aforementioned sap, which had been reoccupied by the enemy."

## WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

The Legislative Council of Antigua has presented £1,000 to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It had been their desire to make their gift to the mother country one of £2,500, to be raised as to £1,500 by an export tax on sugar, and as to £1,000 from the general revenues of the Presidency. His Majesty's Government felt, however, that in view of the possibility of additional taxation being required to meet the Presidency's own needs they would not be justified in accepting more than £1,000, which would be gratefully received, and they suggested that that amount should be paid to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for the benefit of the sick and wounded.

His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell, mentioning this at a meeting of the Legislative Council on January 22nd, said that he believed that general regret would be felt that the people of the island would not be permitted to show, by specially taxing themselves, the depth of their loyalty. He felt sure, however, that the evidence of the spirit in which the reduced gift would be made would be as acceptable to the mother country as the contribution of a far larger amount.

The Hon. J. J. Comacho, senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council moved the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

The Legislative Council voices the sentiments of the people of Antigua in expressing regret at the disinclination of His Majesty's Government to accept the proceeds of a special tax which they proposed to impose in order to provide a contribution towards the purposes of the war which would have been commensurate with the traditions of the colony and the loyal sentiments of its inhabitants.

The Council gladly avail themselves, however, of the permission to present to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem the sum of £1,000 for the greater comfort of our wounded soldiers and sailors.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the committee unanimously concur that the sum of £1,000 be paid as suggested.

Among the "unofficial" gifts received since the last summary appeared in the CIRCULAR have been 246 cases of oranges and other citrus fruits, besides eight cases of preserves for the sick and wounded, which were sent over in the *Tagus* by the Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee, 17 boxes of limes and 2 boxes of grapefruit from the Dominica Agricultural Society, and a third case of woollen goods collected by Mrs. Brodie in the parishes of St. Mark's, St. John's, and St. Patrick's, Grenada.

The Trinidad fruit is being distributed among hospitals throughout the country, while the Dominica limes have been passed on to the British Red Cross Society for despatch to the wounded on the Continent.

The latest figures as to the various assistance funds will be found in the letters of our Honorary Correspondents under the heading "The Homeward Mails."

A list of publications can be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, upon application, post free.

## THE WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.

A further alteration in the West Indian mail arrangements is announced. Alternate sailings for the West Indies will be effected from Liverpool. The steamers used for the service will be *Oriana* (twin screw, 8,086 tons) and *Orissa* (twin screw, 5,352 tons) of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, which will proceed from Trinidad to Colon and through the Panama Canal to Iquique, Antofagasta, Valparaiso and back. Thus *Oriana* will sail from Liverpool on Thursday, and will be followed by *Tagus* from a South of England port a fortnight later.

At the request of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company we gladly publish the following, which they have forwarded to the Postmaster General on the subject of the alterations in the West Indian Mail Service.

Sir.—The Court of Directors feel that it is desirable to submit for the information of the Postmaster General, more fully than they have hitherto done, the various reasons which compelled them to seek his consent to the changes recently made. I am accordingly desired to mention the following points.

The closing of the Port of Southampton to mercantile vessels has been a blow to the Company's business the effect of which it is difficult adequately to convey. The whole of the Company's organisation at that Port comprising extensive Offices, Engineering Factory, Ship's Husband Yard, a Medical Branch, Provodore and General Stores and Laundry, have all been rendered practically useless for the Company's Mail Steamers, and the Directors have had to seek and to make the best of such accommodation as could be secured in other already badly congested and overworked ports.

In London, Liverpool, and Newport a succession of obstacles has been encountered which has given rise to constant and prolonged delays. Difficulty in obtaining a discharging berth because of congested docks, has been followed by slow discharge for want of labour, shed accommodation or railway rolling stock; there has also been delay in securing dry docks and the Company have experienced a shortage of skilled artisans for effecting necessary repairs. In one instance, after a Mail Steamer had been twenty days discharging, the remainder of her cargo had to be placed on board another vessel of the Company, until means of forwarding could be obtained. This steamer could have been unloaded in two or three days at Southampton under normal conditions.

Again in seeking a Channel port for the discharge of Mails and passengers, Plymouth being for Military reasons unavailable, the Company has had to make the best of the inadequate arrangements procurable in, say, such a port as Falmouth.

Obstacles in the way of free navigation round the coasts of these Islands have, of course, as in the case of vessels belonging to other owners, interfered with the movements of the Company's steamers, and caused serious delays in approaching the land, in procuring pilots and in entering harbour.

One of the most serious results of the war which the Company have had to face has been the great decrease in the number of people travelling. All tourist traffic, which the Company in recent years had done so much to develop, has quite disappeared. Apart from this the business man is not going to sea if he can avoid it, and of those who are obliged to travel many are, perhaps not unnaturally, giving a preference to neutral vessels when they are available. To the heavy fall in passenger receipts thus incurred must be added a very serious decrease in outward freight business for which homeward freight earnings have not afforded

compensation. The advance in passenger rates which the Company was obliged to put in force will go but a very little way towards meeting the heavy loss resulting from diminished traffic.

Concurrently with this most serious falling off in revenue has come a heavy increase in working expenses of all kinds. Not only in wages, but in the cost of coal and other consumable stores and also in provisions there has been a very considerable advance; and above all there is the additional expense of War Insurance, which, although it has been reduced, still amounts to 6 per cent. per annum on the capital value of the steamers employed.

In the best times business in the West Indies is not sufficient of itself to support for more than a few months in the year a service of Mail and passenger steamers, and the Company have from time to time had to make good the loss incurred by drawing upon the earnings of vessels more profitably employed in other parts of the world. In recent years, however, the Line has been materially helped by extending the voyages from the Isthmus of Panama to New York, a business which latterly justified placing in the service a more costly type of vessel; but since the outbreak of war, on account of depression of trade in the United States, and the competition of vessels having the advantage of flying a neutral flag, the Directors have had temporarily to abandon this part of the route, and the steamers are for the time being dependent upon the altogether inadequate receipts derived from the West Indian Colonies and the Spanish Main.

The foregoing are some of the difficulties and disadvantages which tend to make it impossible for the Company to maintain a regular fortnightly sailing to the West Indies and rendered it absolutely imperative for the Directors to submit to the Postmaster General a plan for effecting economies in order to ascertain whether it would be possible to carry on the Service.

The Directors are sure that the Postmaster General will understand that the last thing they wish is to make anything in the nature of a complaint regarding the conditions under which the Company's operation have at present to be performed. They appreciate to the full the efforts which are being made by H.M. Government to maintain the commerce of the Country and they will gladly continue to do all in their power to forward the views of the Government. At the same time they desire to meet uninformed criticism, to place on record some of the difficulties with which the Company are contending.

The Directors are pleased to add that over 250 members of their permanent Sea and Shore Staff are at present serving in the Navy or Army, but although those remaining are cheerfully doing their best to make up for the absence of their colleagues, the loss of so many trained men cannot but be felt in conducting the affairs of the Company. I am, Sir, etc.,

The Secretary,  
General Post Office.

A. H. BENNETT.  
Secretary.

In view of the new situation arising from the German "blockade" of England, it will, perhaps, be best to reserve comment on the above letter. The West India Committee's views have already been expressed in the correspondence with the Colonial Office published in these columns.

The results of some cotton manuring experiments have been published in the Mississippi Agricultural Station Bulletin. In these it was found that no profitable result was obtained from the use of potash, which was applied in the form of kainite. It was noticed, however, that rust had appeared on all the cotton other than that treated with farmyard manure and kainite. Nitrogen and phosphates, however, seem to have given very satisfactory results, the latter appearing to hasten maturity.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below.

- Anderson, Lieut. Lewis, (son of Mr. Lewis Anderson, of Jamaica), The King's Royal Rifles.
- Anderson, Sergeant Alan John, (son of Mr. Lewis Anderson, of Jamaica), The Royal Fusiliers.
- de Minvielle, Lieut. H., Local Forces, St. Lucia.
- Fielden, Captain R. B., (A.D.C. and Private Secretary to the late Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G.), The R.N.V.R. Anti-aircraft Corps.
- Fitzgerald, Major G. W., (younger son of the late Mr. O. C. Fitzgerald, for many years Sub-Receiver of San Fernando, and cousin of Mr. E. Fitzgerald, of the Auditor General's Department, Trinidad), 1st Field Ambulance, East Lancashire Division, Territorial Force. (In Egypt).
- Glegg, Private Robert Crum Ewing, (son of the late Robert Glegg, of Nevis, and of Mrs. Dobridge), 16th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Golding, Major J. J. L., (Chief of Police of St. Lucia), Reserve of Officers.
- Grant, Captain Ferris N., (Lieutenant R.N. retired), (born in Demerara, son of Mr. Ferris Grant), Royal Sussex Regiment.
- Grant, Captain Harold G., (born in Demerara, son of Mr. Ferris Grant), Acting Adjutant, Royal Marine Light Infantry.
- Grist, Captain H. G., (Estate's proprietor in St. Lucia), Northumberland Fusiliers.
- Halfhide, Private Rudolph G., (late of Sprotons, Ltd., and the Registrar's Office, British Guiana), 1st Royal Montreal Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Henderson, Captain G. S. S., (Staff Officer Windward Islands), Leicestershire Regiment.
- Knight, Mr., (son of Mr. W. Julian Knight, of Bridgetown, Barbados), Assistant Surgeon, H.M.S. *Patia*.
- Knight, and Lieut. Alan B., (son of Mr. W. Julian Knight, of Barbados), has been granted a Commission.
- Lawton, Private Rustace, (of Jamaica), The Canadian Contingent.
- MacCallum, Major A., (of Cousins Cove, Jamaica, nephew of Flora Annie Steel, the novelist). On Sir John French's Staff.
- Madgwick, Stanley A., (son of Mr. John A. Madgwick of Dominica), Royal Army Medical Corps. *At the Front*.
- Mallet-Paret, Captain Louis, Local Forces, St. Lucia.
- Murray, Sergeant Cecil Walter Murray (son of Mr. H. H. Murray, of Pbn. Mara, British Guiana), The "Queen's Own" Royal Glasgow Yeomanry.
- Murray, Dr. R. Galway (of Trinidad), The National Reserve.
- O'Reilly, and Lieut. G. O. M., Local Forces, St. Lucia.
- Ottley, Lieut. L. E., West India Regiment, Staff Officer of the Jamaica Local Forces.
- Owen, Private Meredyth, (son of Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.), The London Scottish.
- Phillips, Mr. J. R., (son of the late Mr. J. E. Phillips, of Barbados), Assistant Surgeon, H.M.S. *Patia*.
- Rae, Trooper William, (born in Grenada, son of the Rev. James Rae, Minister of St. Saviour's Parish, By Whim, British Guiana), The Lothian and Border Horse.
- Stephen, Lieut. C. G.,\* (son-in-law of Mr. T. H. de Gale, of Grenada), 2nd Royal Fusiliers.
- Wilson, Sergeant Roy (formerly of Wilsons—Glasgow and Trinidad—Ltd., and lately with Messrs. Lade and Co.), 24th Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.

## Killed in Action.

SECOND LIEUTENANT M. W. SETON-BROWNE of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who, we regret to state has been killed in action, was the eldest son of the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne of Dunfermline, Grenada, and a worthy descendant of Colonel Seton, who took a prominent part in the suppression of the Carib war in St. Vincent in 1795-6.

## Alterations and Corrections.

- Buchanan, Lieut. Claude, (son-in-law of Mr. R. M. Cocking of Jamaica), The West India Regiment.
- Dixon, Lieut.-Colonel E. T., (late Member of the Legislative Council for St. Andrew's, Jamaica), Royal Artillery.
- Gould, 2nd Lieut. H. C., (son of Mr. H. C. Gould, engineer to the Kingston General Commissioners, Jamaica), 14th Service Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.
- Hebbert, Captain R. F., (son-in-law of Mr. Arthur Westmoreland, of Jamaica), 107th Pioneers, I.M.S.
- Lucie Smith, Captain Alfred, (son of Sir Alfred Lucie Smith, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago), Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
- McKinnon, 2nd Lieut. Mervyn A., (of British Guiana), 7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, (from the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps).
- Owen, 2nd Lieut. Wyrriott, (son of Commander W. H. Owen R.N.), The Welsh Regiment. (*Twice wounded at the Front*).

[Copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, of December 1st, 15th, and 29th, 1914, and January 12th, 26th, and February 9th, 1915, in which the first, second third, fourth fifth and sixth lists, containing 315, 63, 99, 22, 111 and 253 names respectively, were published, are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane.]

## CONFECTIONERS AND SUGAR SUPPLIES.

### A Debate on the Government's Policy.

Speaking at a meeting of the British Federation of Confectioners' Associations at Hull, on January 23rd, Mr. Fred Needler, a delegate representing Hull and Grimsby, expressed the opinion that, through the action which had been taken by the Government, cane sugar would eventually come more into evidence, and he added that he would urge upon the gentlemen present to remember that they were Englishmen first and confectioners after.

The discussion arose over a resolution submitted by the Secretary of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance urging that "a rebate should be allowed immediately on exports of confectionery equivalent to the difference between the world's prices of sugar and the price charged by the Government, and that the importation of sugared products made of enemy sugar, bought at much lower prices than those demanded by the Government in this country . . . should be prohibited." Mr. T. Drinkall, a Hull and Grimsby delegate, moved that no action be taken in the matter, and that the letter lie on the table. Mr. Walter Wroe, representing Leeds and West Riding, said that the drafters of the resolutions wished the Government to promote a kind of bounty upon the exports of manufactured confectionery. They, as confectioners, who had to make their living by the distribution of confectionery were not interested



in having the exports unduly fostered. Why, he asked, should they encourage the sending out of the country of articles which they found a difficulty in getting full supplies of at present. The home manufacturers could not supply the trade sufficiently owing to the inadequate supply of raw material, yet some in the trade would like to get a bounty from the Government to export what we wanted at home. Mr. T. Drinkall said that the action the Government was taking in the interests of the general public or consumer he maintained was right and should be upheld in every shape and form. The country was not yet through the war and they were not at the end of the sugar scarcity, and if less sugar was exported in the shape of sweets stocks here would last much longer.

Mr. G. T. Robinson, on behalf of the Nottingham and Derby Association, submitted a resolution expressing the hope that the prohibition would shortly be removed. Mr. Henry Dickson, of Sheffield, supported the action of the Government, as also did Mr. H. P. Wells, of Sheffield, the President of the Federation, and Mr. R. T. Read, President of the Hull and Grimsby Association, said that they should be thankful for what the Government had done in the way of protection, though he thought they should try and get all the sugar they possibly could. After further discussion, in the course of which Mr. Needler made the remarks quoted above, it was decided to allow the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance letter to lie on the table.

For the account of this meeting we are indebted to our contemporary *Confectionery*.

## SUGAR-CANE BORERS.

### Maize as Bait for Noxious Moths.

An experiment on a large scale was started towards the close of last year in the District of Moka, Mauritius, by the manager of an estate where the sugar-cane is always heavily infested with the pink borer (*Sesamia nonagrioides*).

Maize was sown between the rows of canes and the results proved highly satisfactory. The young cane plants are now reported by Mr. d'Emmerez de Charmoy, the Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, to be practically free of borers, whilst other fields (ratoons) situated in a close proximity have been very badly infested.

The partiality of the moth for laying its eggs on the maize is remarkable. The young larvæ which feed on the maize remain grouped together for many days until the maize plant shows signs of attack. The larvæ, therefore, by the collection and destruction of these plants are readily destroyed upon a large scale before they become scattered. Fresh seeds should be sown in the place of attacked plants that have been uprooted whilst those which have grown to about 2 feet in height should be uprooted, buried in the soil or fed to animals.

A minute black hymenopteron (*Ceraphron beneficiens*) has been found parasiting the eggs, and Mr. de Charmoy suggests that it might be advisable to keep plants bearing batches of eggs in small wooden boxes with wire gauze or mosquito net away from ants and other insects. The parasites will thus be allowed to hatch out and increase and can be liberated in fields badly infested with borer.

## MAIZE GROWING IN ANTIGUA.

### The Local Kiln-dryer a Success.

Attention has frequently been called in these columns to the efforts being made to develop a maize industry in Antigua, and it is satisfactory to learn that the kiln-drying experiment initiated by Sir Hesketh Bell, the Governor of the Leeward Islands, is proving a success. It will be remembered that samples of imported corn and "creole" corn dried locally were put on one side with a view to ascertaining if the locally dried corn would keep. The maize dried at the local kiln, as far back as last April, is reported to be in excellent condition. In order to stimulate interest in the question of maize growing Sir Hesketh Bell has issued a Proclamation on the subject, rather an unusual course it is true, but one which must be welcomed if it will have the effect of bringing prominently before the people of the West Indies the desirability of replacing imported maize by the home-grown product, as far as possible.

In this proclamation the Governor points out that the price of ordinary wheaten flour is already nearly 30 per cent. more than it is in normal times while the increase on maize and cornmeal is even greater. "So long as the war lasts prices are more likely to be increased than to be reduced. The people of Antigua are largely dependent on imported foodstuffs and any further heavy increase in their cost would probably cause much distress and privation. It is very important that we should reduce our dependence on imported foodstuffs, and that we should, as far as possible, produce locally the chief food of the people. Antigua is, fortunately, a very suitable country for the production of maize, and large quantities of that grain could be produced in a very few months without trenching on the lands which are now set apart for the cultivation of sugar-cane. The Governor therefore urges the planters and peasants of Antigua to set to work, at once, and to plant maize on a large scale.

"The Governor proposes therefore that the development of the maize industry should be promoted by co-operation between the Government and the landholders, and that the handling, drying, storage and sale of the grain should be entrusted to an experienced and responsible Board. The experiments that have been conducted during the past 9 months have conclusively proved that maize grown in Antigua can be thoroughly dried in a kiln; that corn so treated will keep in excellent condition for

several months; and that Antigua kiln-dried corn is, in every way, as good as, if not better than, the corn imported from America. It has also been proved that the production of cornmeal of excellent quality presents no difficulties.

"The kiln-drying plant, which was erected in April last, is being extended and improved and will shortly be in a position to cope with large quantities of grain. The Government Granary will deal with corn in either of the following ways:—

- (1) The co-operative plan.
- (2) The purchase of corn for cash outright.
- (3) The kiln-drying of corn.

"Under the 'Co-operative plan' the Government Granary will, on and after the 31st March next, be ready to purchase any quantity, up to 10,000 bushels, of maize of good quality, on the cob, at a fixed price of 2s. 6d. per bushel of shelled grain. Such a price is believed to cover approximately the average cost of production. The grain so bought will be shelled, kiln-dried and stored. It will gradually be sold by auction, tender, or otherwise, according to local requirements and to the best advantage. The profits on such transactions will, after deduction of all expenses, be divided into four equal parts. One part will be credited to the Granary and the remaining three parts will be distributed, in due proportion among the various growers who provided the corn.

"The second plan provides for the sale of corn outright to the Granary. In such case a price of 3s. 6d. per bushel of shelled corn of good quality will be paid up to the 30th June next, and the Granary will not bind itself to purchase more than a total quantity of 5,000 bushels. It will be understood that the sellers of such corn, will have no claim to participate in any profits which the Granary may make in dealing with the grain.

"The third plan will meet the desires of those growers who do not wish to dispose of their corn and who only wish to have it dried. The charge for kiln-drying grain will be not more than 6d. per bushel, and the corn should be moved within 3 days of delivery. It is possible, however, that storage-room for such grain will be available at the Granary at a moderate charge.

"Experiments are now being made by the Department of Agriculture to test the best methods of growing maize in Antigua, and the officers of that department will gladly advise all who may desire to consult them in that connection."

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LIEUT. FREDERICK W. DES VOEUX, of the 2nd Grenadier Guards, who was killed in action in September, at the age of 24, left unsettled property valued at upwards of £7,000. Lieut. Des Voeux was the younger son of the late Sir William Des Voeux, who saw service in British Guiana, St. Lucia, Trinidad and elsewhere.

## THE BRITISH SOLDIER'S RATIONS.

Summary of Lecture on the Food Factor in War, delivered at the Institute of Hygiene by Dr. Gastineau Earle, on February 18th, 1914.

Dr. Gastineau Earle said the fact that a soldier requires the best of food to make him an efficient fighting unit had only recently been faced scientifically. The Army Service Corps had first existed as a separate body in the South African War, but, even then, it did not have a free hand, and the present campaign was the first in which its independent organisation had been tested, and with results that had been entirely satisfactory. The soldier's diet must contain the requisite amount of energy-producing and body-building material; it must be varied, fresh, based on national habit, and easy of transport. The basis of the British ration is fresh meat, 1½ lb., and bread 1½ lb.; to which are added: sugar 2½ oz., oatmeal 2 oz., jam 4 oz., bacon 2 oz., cheese 2 oz., vegetables 8 oz., tea and salt. This ration, compared with that of other armies, contained more of practically everything but bread; it is especially rich in fat and sugar, although the importance of sugar is now fully recognised by the French. Each man carries an Iron, or Reserve, ration sufficient for three days, of very trifling weight, and made up of concentrated foods, biscuit 8 oz., sugar 3 oz., bacon 4 oz., chocolate 3 oz., cheese 4 oz., and tea ¼ oz.; this ration is used when the men are cut off from usual supplies. An emergency ration is also carried, weighing 9 oz., and consisting of Plasmon and chocolate; this is only used in extremes.

The want of suitable food broke the back of Napoleon's army in Poland in 1806, and, again, led to his disastrous retreat from Moscow in 1812, in which he lost 400,000 men. The Germans are essentially a materialistic nation, and it is doubtful if their patriotism would be sufficient for them to endure food privation for long. The great amount of fat in their diet, largely in the form of sausages, will no doubt stand the younger men in good stead, but the amount stored in the bodies of the Landsturm may constitute a serious menace to their activity. The soldier's ration requires to be based on national diet—especially where this has been shown by long experience to be adequate for the nation's needs. The English have always been the largest meat-eaters, and it is right, therefore, that the British ration should contain a full allowance of meat. The success of the Japanese in their war with Russia is often quoted as an example of the value of a vegetarian diet, but it must be remembered that coincident with rise as a nation, they have felt the need of meat, and their ration is now not far behind that of European nations in this respect. With regard to the question of an alcohol ration in the army it must be remembered that it has its value and uses. The British soldier has always taken alcohol, and Nelson's sailors and Wellington's

soldiers were bred of a stock that consumed much larger quantities than the present generation. Alcohol, taken in moderation, is a valuable food, especially when fatigued (it should not be taken before or during work), and a valuable aid to the digestion and absorption of other food-stuffs by a tired digestive system. Rum is about the most wholesome spirit procurable. It is much more wholesome than brandy, whisky, or gin. In this connection it may be noted that the French, on occasion, issue a special "ration hygiénique" of 11½ oz. brandy. Jam is important for its sugar (energy-producing), and the fruit it contains makes it valuable as a preventive of scurvy. Chocolate is a most valuable concentrated food, especially when other foodstuffs are not available; it is the chief constituent of the emergency ration. Bread and biscuit constitute a very important part of the ration, and this is particularly so in the Russian Army, where it is more than twice as large as that of other European nations—no doubt because the Russian soldiers still obey the fasts of the Christian Church.

### EARL GREY AND THE BAYONET.

CONTRIBUTED BY N. DAKNELL DAVIS, C.M.G.

Now that the bayonet has come into its own again it may be of interest to recall the first Earl Grey's eulogy as to the merits of that weapon of warfare.

In 1794, the British Government decided to attack the French dominions in the West Indies, and General Grey—afterwards Earl Grey—and Admiral Sir John Jervis—later Lord St. Vincent—were placed in command of the expedition. The general order about the bayonet was fittingly given at Barbados, which has long been an outpost of the British Empire. It ran as follows:—

*"Further orders before Embarkation."*

"Barbados, Jan 24th, 1794.

"The soldiers will bear in mind the use of the bayonet, which, in possession of, they can have no excuse for retreating for want of ammunition, the bayonet being the best and most effectual weapon in the hands of a gallant British soldier; in which mode of attack (the General assures them) no troops upon earth are equal to them. In case of a night attack, ammunition and firing are totally out of the question, and the bayonet is ever to be preferred and made use of. Every reason is in favour of this system; amongst many others the following, viz: It conceals you and your numbers from the enemy; the enemy direct their fire wherever they see or hear fire, consequently fire upon each other, whilst you are concealed, and they fall an easy prey. The General assures the troops of this from his own repeated experience; and the soldiers may rely in confidence upon him, that if it is strictly adhered to, it will seldom, if ever, fail of success."

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies can now be seen at most of the Clubs and Public Libraries in the British West Indies. The map is offered at what is practically cost price, and if one may judge from the many appreciative letters received its publication has served a useful purpose.

The new map has been specially drawn and printed in colours by the London Geographical Institute, under the superintendence of the Committee. Its size is 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 10 inches. The general arrangement is indicated by the reproduction in our advertisement pages. It will be noted that while no attempt has been made to give the physiographical features of the individual islands—this being impracticable in view of the relative size of most of the islands in relation to the mainland—the principal railways, sea distances in nautical miles, cables, wireless telegraph stations, coaling stations and oil stations are all clearly marked. The map has three insets, one showing the routes and distances between Canada and the United States and the West Indies, another a plan of the Panama Canal and a third showing by diagrams and figures the area and population of the various British West Indian colonies. It is believed that the Map will prove useful in the offices of those firms which have dealings with our West Indian colonies, and also for educational purposes in schools; and it is hoped that the distribution of the Map among Government Offices and Chambers of Commerce and other public bodies may help in some degree to stimulate interest in the British West Indies.

The map can be seen both mounted and in sheet at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The reduced price to members of the West India Committee is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

The Mirrlees Watson Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, in their annual report state that, although for the first half of last year there was a material slackening of their business, due to phenomenally low sugar prices, the prospects for the present year are distinctly good, in spite of the many troubles associated with the war. Among the sugar work executed had been a 350-ton factory for Formosa; a white sugar factory for India; and an exceptionally large quadruple effect for Cuba. The report speaks in glowing terms of the success of the Messchaert system of grooving the rolls of sugar-cane mills, of which, with the exception of the United States and its dependencies, the Company have acquired the patent rights. No fewer than 40 licenses have been issued in the last two months. Other items include a 46,000 sq. ft. coiling surface condenser for the Leeds Corporation Electricity Works, and a large number of rotary air-pumps of the "Mirrlees Leblanc" type. A new steam "multi-jector" air-pump is stated to be now being made with especial application to condensing plants for marine purposes.

## A NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

### A Noble Building for Georgetown, Demerara.

Work is proceeding apace on the foundations of the new Roman Catholic Cathedral in Georgetown, Demerara, which is to replace the beautiful building destroyed by fire on March 7th, 1913. The Dutch used to import bricks as building material, and some remains of the old brick fabrics so characteristic of them still remain; but in later years the colony's timber has been used for buildings both large and small. Notable examples of how it can be applied to this purpose to advantage architecturally are furnished by the Gothic Town Hall—a masterpiece of the late Rev. Ignatius Scoles—and the spacious Anglican Cathedral which was designed by the late Sir A. Blomfield. The Victoria Law Courts, too, planned by Baro: Siccama, and carried out in concrete and wood, show what good use can be made of the local forests.

But more graceful than any of these was the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Brickdam, which was destroyed by fire, resulting from a workman upsetting a brazier in the tower. The church was designed by Mr. C. Castellani, built at a cost of \$140,000, and opened in 1871. A notable feature of it was its tower, which was often the first glimpse of buildings which one saw on approaching Georgetown from the sea.

Now, timber is to give place to ferro-concrete for the manufacture of which plenty of gravel and sand can be obtained locally. Georgetown being below the level of the sea, some doubts have been expressed as to whether this form of building will be permanently suitable for local conditions. But the new Cathedral will be as light as possible, and will stand on a concrete raft covering the whole area of the building, whose weight will thus be evenly distributed. The architect is Mr. Leonard Stokes, who has had in view the comfort of the congregation as well as the need of erecting a building in keeping with its picturesque surroundings in the "Garden City," as Georgetown has been called. Thus all the windows will be fitted with special louvres to receive the refreshing sea breeze.

Some idea of what the new Cathedral will be like may be obtained from the picture on this page, which has been specially drawn for the WEST INDIA COM-

MITTEE CIRCULAR from an illustration which appeared recently in the *Builder*.

So far no contract has been let for the super-structure; but Mr. R. D. Nurse, of 43 and 47, Robb Street, Bourda, Demerara, is at work on the raft from designs prepared by the Considere Construction Co., of 5, Victoria Street, Westminster. These engineers are also advising as to the steel reinforcement for the super-structure.

SINCE 1911 the Bureau of Agriculture of the Philippines has been devoting its energies towards securing cacao improvement, but, principally on account of lack of funds and personnel, work could not be taken up in the field, and until this year the work on this project has been confined to experi-



The new Georgetown Roman Catholic Cathedral.

mental work in shield budding at the Lamao Experiment Station. These experiments were carried to a successful conclusion by the close of 1913. Since then, states Mr. P. J. Wester, the Horticulturist in charge of the Lamao Experiment Station, steps have been taken to demonstrate the value of budded cacao trees to the cacao planters, and selection work has been begun in the cacao district of Silang, Cavite. Through a co-operative arrangement the Bureau of Science will carry out the fermentation of the cacao pods from the selected trees, make the quality tests, etc., and top-working young seedlings will be started as soon as necessary data as to the productiveness, etc., have been collected.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### British Beet Sugar.

In the House of Lords, on February 9th, the Earl of Denbigh raised the question of home-grown beet, and asked whether the Government were taking, or proposed to take, any steps for encouraging the establishment of a British beet sugar industry, and were taking advantage of the present exceptionally favourable opportunity of making ourselves less dependent on German and Austrian supplies. This was a matter which he had raised seven years ago. He had got a certain amount of sympathy in words, but never anything more substantial, until the Government agreed not to place an excise on the sugar which was being grown at the one solitary factory at Cantley in Norfolk. The work of six or seven years had proved that the industry, if properly handled, and taken up by the Government of the day, could most certainly be established in the British Isles. The provision of capital for the building of factories was needed, and much depended upon the price which the factories could afford to pay. The farmers would not contract to supply beets unless they knew that the factories were certain to be erected, and the factories could not be erected until they were certain of getting beets, and so they had been revolving in a circle. All that had been foreshadowed has come to pass owing to our dependence upon the Continent, the War had resulted in large supplies of sugar being cut off and prices had risen to a high figure. The one factory that did exist was probably being saved from disaster by these high prices; but what people wanted to know was what would happen at the end of the war. Was German and Austrian sugar to be admitted free as in years gone by? The position was analogous to that of the dye industry, and he believed that unless the Government provided money thus or secured the country against the unlimited dumping of aniline dyes at the close of the war, it would be difficult to establish the industry. It had been suggested that the Government should build factories themselves; if they did so, he hoped that these factories would be transferred to commercial companies as soon as possible, but perhaps something might be done in the way of guaranteeing the interest and the necessary capital.

#### THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

Lord Lucas congratulated the Noble Lord on the efforts which he had made to promote sugar beet growing, but he felt bound to say that it was not a very helpful sign that after all the years in which he had been acquiring so much knowledge on this particular subject he should hold the view that the industry could not succeed unless there was some form of State assistance behind it.—Lord Denbigh said that that was not the meaning he intended to convey. He did not mean to say that the industry could not succeed, his point was that it was very difficult to start, and that after it had been going for some years the cost would diminish.—Lord Lucas said that they were greatly indebted to the National Sugar Beet Association for the information they had furnished, but a good deal more was still required. The question as to the suitability of our system of agriculture to beet growing on a large scale had to be gone into and examined with the greatest care. The Government, however, proposed Mr. Orwin, of Oxford University, the Director of the Institute for Research in Agriculture Economics, to undertake an enquiry on their behalf, and this enquiry was already proceeding, but, Lord Lucas, always felt that the crux of the question was whether sugar beet was a crop which would ever commend itself to the

farmers in this country. There was first of all, the feeding industry, which to a more or less extent the growing of sugar-beet was bound to replace. The feeding industry was much larger and more important here than it was on the Continent. The second point was that almost all, if not all, of the countries which went in for sugar-beet growing on a large scale had at their disposal what was essential—an easily available supply of usually cheap, in some cases very cheap labour. The country which of all the European countries was coming to the fore in this respect and increasing its sugar output most rapidly was Russia, and that was a country which had a large supply of cheap labour. That was one of the things which the farmer had to take into consideration.

There was no doubt that the sugar-beet crop required a good deal more labour expended upon it and much more supervision by the farmer than was the case with root crops. They had to find out whether the return that the sugar-beet crop would give the farmer would be sufficiently larger than the return that he now got for his root crops to make it worth his while to undertake the greater amount of trouble which he would be occasioned. It was on those lines that they would be able to see whether or not sugar-beet was a crop which British farmers will take up. Therefore, he was aiming at getting definite data which would show the comparative values of the two crops. If two tables could be prepared showing the comparative value of meat and beet crops to the farmer, it would be possible for the farmer to see whether it would be worth his while to embark on beet-growing. They also wanted to show the man proposing to set up a factory what price he would have to pay for a steady supply of beet.

The Marquis of Lansdowne criticised the Board of Agriculture for not having undertaken their investigation before. There has been an immense amount of raw material available had they chosen to take advantage of it, and he thought that they had a right to complain that after having again and again had this subject urged upon them they should only now be beginning to make an enquiry which was so obviously desirable. He hoped that there would now be no more delay, and that the enquiry would be prosecuted with all possible expedition.

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Islington, reminded the House of the practical difficulties which at present stood in the way of any Government in this country affording financial assistance in the direction indicated. He desired to bring to the mind of the House, the practical difficulties which at present stood in the way of any Government in this country affording financial assistance in the direction indicated that afternoon. When Great Britain withdrew from the Sugar Convention in September of 1913, an undertaking was made by the Convention Powers that sugar and sugar-manufactured articles exported from this country to any of those countries would be admitted on the lowest rung of the tariff—in other words, under most-favoured-nation treatment. But that privilege was granted to Great Britain on the understanding that Great Britain in her turn would by no direct or indirect means undertake bounties or subsidies for the establishment of a sugar industry in this country. It was laid down that if such were done a declaration at any rate should be made by Great Britain to all the Convention Powers, a declaration which would embody any departure in the direction of preference to sugar produced within the United Kingdom.

The Earl of Denbigh asked whether His Majesty's Government were of opinion that the situation as regards all

such Conventions was in no way changed by the present state of war, and that things were going on afterwards as they did before.

Lord Islington said that he was coming to that. Six months notice must be given by His Majesty's Government to any of those Convention Powers before any departure were made from the present arrangement. The noble Earl asked whether the present situation would make no difference. Of course it would make a difference to the extent of tearing up any agreement or treaty with the Powers with which they were now at war. But the other Powers included in the Sugar Convention were our Allies and neutral Powers, and with those countries, both collectively and severally, it would be found that they were doing a very large business in regard to manufactures based upon the sugar industry. Therefore, whilst he, like his noble friend, Lord Lucas, fully sympathised with the position indicated by the noble Earl in regard to emergencies of the war and the shortage that must ensue from the withdrawal of supplies from Austria and Germany, he thought the noble Earl would admit, even in face of that, that any departure from the undertakings laid down with the Convention Powers would run the risk, possibly the serious risk, of any of those Powers making arrangements less favourable to us in regard to their tariff system. This question was one which must be the basis of very serious consideration by any Government who undertook to establish a sugar industry in this country based upon financial assistance.

#### Food prices—The Outlook for Sugar.

On February 11th, the Prime Minister, speaking on a resolution moved by Mr. Ferens, said that the three material commodities which fell within the category of the necessaries of life were wheat, flour, meat, sugar and coal. The average price of wheat showed an increase in February this year of 72 per cent. over February of last year, and of 66 per cent. over the average of the three preceding years. The figures for flour were very much the same. The increase as regards British meat did not exceed 6 per cent., and over the average of three years 12 per cent. Foreign meat, compared with last year, was 12 per cent., and as compared with the average of the three years 19 per cent. Sugar, which was abnormally low a year ago, showed an increase this February as compared with last February of no less than 72 per cent., but as compared with the average of the three years its increase was only 43 per cent., showing how very misleading it was to take only one particular year. Coal, as compared with last year, showed an increase of 15 per cent., and compared with the average of the three years of 14 per cent.

During the Franco-Prussian War sugar which was now 32d. was 42d. per lb. In the case of sugar the Government, as the House knew, resorted in the very early stages of the War, under the auspices and with the able management of his right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, to purchasing upon a very large scale the available stocks of sugar in the world. The stocks of sugar now in the hands of the Government were sufficient to last many months. It was quite true that there had been a rise in the price of sugar, but even now the price of sugar in this country was approximately the same as it was in the United States of America, notwithstanding the fact that the United States had a considerable internal crop as well as the advantage of their close connection with Cuba. As lately as 1911 the price of sugar was as high as it was now. Mr. Asquith proceeded "I think we may claim that our policy has prevented the purchase by this country, directly or indirectly, of enemy sugar, and in consequence has restricted the

sale by both Germany and Austria of their surplus stocks. My right hon. Friend who looks after this matter assures me, and I think the House may take it, that so far as any change is likely in the price of sugar in this country in the course of the next few weeks or months, it will be a downward change and not an upward change."

Mr. Lough said that the Government ought not to take complete control of the great commodities, but that if it were done it should only be done when the price was low. He urged that the prohibition should be removed.

#### The Sugar Commission.

On February 11th, Mr. McKenna, in reply to Mr. Morrell, said that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply had not yet issued a report, and that they did not think it would be in the public interest to issue an interim one at the present time. No report had been prepared.

#### The Consumption of Spirits in the United Kingdom.

On February 16th, in reply to Mr. Joynson Hicks, Mr. Lloyd George submitted the following statement of the number of gallons of home-made spirits, rum, Geneva and brandy charged with duty for home consumption in the United Kingdom in October, November and December, 1913, and January, 1914, and of the corresponding months of 1914 and 1915.

	Home-made Spirits.†	Rum.	Geneva (Foreign)	Brandy.
	Pf. Gall.	Pf. Gall.	Pf. Gall.	Pf. Gall.
1913.				
Oct.	2,502,800	317,100	41,100	164,400
Nov.	2,609,600	379,100	40,900	162,900
Dec.	2,941,500	457,600	39,100	171,400
1914.				
Jan.	2,240,100	413,600	26,900	121,900
Total ...	10,294,000	1,567,400	148,000	620,600
1914				
Oct.	2,283,200	310,000	39,000	138,000
Nov.	2,735,300	448,500	37,800	154,500
Dec.	2,900,600	640,500	31,600	137,800
1915.				
Jan.	*2,321,600	526,300	25,700	97,800
Total ...	10,240,700	1,925,300	134,100	528,100

\*Approximate.

†Totals of Home-made Spirits; no separate figures can be given for Whisky or Gin.

#### The Government's Sugar Deal.

On February 16th, Mr. Hogge asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply had bought Dutch sugar since the importation of sugar into the United Kingdom was totally prohibited as an economic blow against the enemy; whether the Commission was assured that such purchases, if any, would not be replaced by sugar from Germany or Austria; and whether, if such assurance were given, there was any objection to similar importations under licence by merchants and manufacturers.

Mr. McKenna: The answer to the first and second parts of the question is in the affirmative. The purchases were of a class of sugar which our own refineries cannot fully supply and were small, consequently it is possible to make certain that the assurances given will be kept in a way which would not be possible if purchases were general and to large amounts.

Mr. Charles Price then asked the Home Secretary whether he was aware that manufacturers were now in a position to place forward contracts for sugar to be delivered during the first half of August at prices at least £7

a ton less than those charged by the Royal Commission and if he could state whether the Commission had yet arrived at any decision with regard to such contracts, or was taking steps to safeguard the interests of consumers when the present stocks bought by the Government were exhausted.

Mr. McKenna: My hon. Friend's statement as to prices is not confirmed by the latest reports I have seen. Sugar bought in New York even at present prices could not be sold here cheaper than it is now sold by the Royal Commission, and any purchases by this country in New York would send the prices up much higher. The Commission considers that it would be premature as yet to attempt to decide what the position in the latter part of the year may demand. I can only say that, so soon as a decision can be reached, ample notice will be given to the trade of any change in existing conditions.

## OBITUARY.

### THE HON. EUGENE CIPRIANI.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of the Hon. Eugene Cipriani, which took place at his residence in Queen's Park, East, Port of Port of Spain, Trinidad, on February 8th, at the age of 74.

Mr. Cipriani was a member of one of the old French families which settled in Trinidad. He was appointed a member of the Legislative Council during the Governorship of Sir Napier Broome in 1888, and retained his seat until 1910, when he retired, and was permitted by His Majesty to retain the title of Honourable. Through his business acumen he amassed a large fortune, and died one of the wealthiest men in Trinidad. He leaves a widow and two sisters.

### MR. J. D. ADAMSON.

We regret to state that Mr. James Douglas Adamson died at his residence, 7, Evelyn Terrace, Brighton, on February 21st.

Mr. J. D. Adamson, who had been in failing health for some time, was part proprietor of Brighton, in St. Kitts, the first estate in that island to make vacuum pan sugar. For many years he spent nearly every winter in the island, though his residence for over thirty years was at Rottingdean, from where he moved to the neighbouring town of Brighton. Mr. Adamson was for many years a member of the West India Committee, and never failed to visit the Committee Rooms whenever he came to London. He leaves a widow, two daughters and a son.

### MR. J. J. RIBEIRO.

We regret to state that Mr. Joseph J. Ribeiro, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, died in that city on February 3rd.

Mr. J. J. Ribeiro, who settled in Trinidad, had been suffering for some time from a stroke of paralysis, and eventually succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. He was prominently interested in the liquor trade of Trinidad, and amassed a large fortune in the island.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Scard, is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1s.

## AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

MR. C. FORBES TODD, manager of the Usine St. Madeleine, and Mr. James Black, manager of Waterloo Estate, have been appointed to the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, in succession to Mr. John Moodie and Mr. F. J. Morris.

MR. MAXWELL LEFROY's lecture at the West India Committee Rooms, in which he advocated the establishment of a silk industry in the West Indies, has not been forgotten. Specimens of a mulberry cultivated at St. Clair, Trinidad, and readily propagated both by cuttings and by seed, have been sent to Kew and determined there as *Morus alba* Linn. var. *latifolia*, Burr. which Mr. Hill, the Assistant Director, adds "is one of the best forms for feeding silkworms." Professor Caruody points out that anyone who should think of embarking experimentally on silk-worm rearing will thus be able to obtain locally supplies of the food plant with the knowledge that it has already been proved to thrive in Trinidad.

MR. W. C. FISHLOCK, Curator of the Experiment Station in Tortola, has been in England since December, on business connected with the Dominica Forests and Sawmills, Ltd., to which his services were "lent" by the Colonial Office. To a representative of the CIRCULAR he said that the war had naturally had a depressing effect on the cotton industry, but from what he had gathered from interviews with Mr. Hutton and Mr. Himbury of the British Cotton Growing Association, this would only be a passing phase, and if the Virgin Islands could "weather the storm" matters would right themselves. Meanwhile, every effort was being made to develop other industries, and notably limes, coconuts, onions and ground provisions. The latter were being increasingly planted with the view of rendering the islands less dependent on imported foodstuffs.

Mr. Fishlock went on to say that hitherto the chief market for ground provisions and small stock had been in St. Thomas. The demand there had, however, fallen off owing to the lack of purchasing power, resulting from the suspension of the activities of the Hamburg-America fleet, and the efforts made to raise provisions locally. Since he had been in England he had delivered a lecture on the West Indies at Bathford, and was gratified to notice the amount of interest which his audience took in the subject. Mr. Fishlock first took up his duties in 1902, and he modestly refrained from claiming, as he would be justified in doing, the credit for the marked development of agriculture in the Virgin Islands which has characterised his tenure of office. It is satisfactory to learn that in spite of all temptations to embark on a business career, Mr. Fishlock has decided to return to the Colonial Civil Service.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE German Government is stated to be inducing agriculturists to devote much of the area now under sugar beet to the cultivation of cereals.

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MR. GOKHALE, the well-known Indian reformer, whose death has just taken place, was a frequent speaker in the Viceroy's Council on the subject of emigration to the West Indies.

\* \* \*

COMMENCING with the intercolonial steamer due to leave Trinidad on March 9th, the R.M.S.P. Co.'s Demerara branch service will be extended to Paramaribo in Surinam.

\* \* \*

IT is understood that the Report of Mr. J. McNeill and Mr. Chinman Lal, who returned from a tour of enquiry into East Indian immigration last year has been referred to the local Governments.

\* \* \*

A MEETING will be held at the West India Committee Rooms at 3 p.m. on Thursday next, February 25th to meet Mr. A. P. Mahaffy, the new Administrator of Dominica. It is hoped that those members specially interested in the island will attend on this occasion.

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THERE is every indication that the falling off in business in connection with engineering which occurred at the outset of the war is ceasing. In fact, the Stirling Boiler Company, Ltd., report business as having been exceedingly lively since the beginning of the year, orders for no less than twelve boilers having come in during the month of January.

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MR. HENRI ROBERT, Statistician to the Department of Agriculture of the Island, estimates the 1914 sugar crop of Mauritius at 275,000 metric tons. As Mr. Stockdale, the local Director of Agriculture, points out, this will be a record in the annals of the sugar industry of the colony. The figures of the three preceding years were 249,700, 213,060 and 160,500 respectively.

\* \* \*

*United Empire*, the official journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, for February, contains a touching memoir of Mr. Archibald Colquhoun, for some years Editor of that publication, whose recent death has caused widespread regret in colonial circles. In 1913 Mr. Colquhoun visited the Panama Canal and he worked ardently to arouse this country on the subject, particularly as affecting the British West Indies.

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THE new taxation in Canada for raising war revenue takes the form of (1) Special taxes on financial institutions in Canada; (2) Special stamp taxes; and (3) A horizontal increase in the tariff of 7½ per

cent. and of 5 on the British preference. Among a number of other articles sugar is excepted from the tariff increase. Steamship tickets, except those for Canadian ports and Newfoundland, the British West Indies, and the United States, in whose favour an exception is made, are to be taxed.

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MR. PHILIP F. GARNETT, whose death at the advanced age of 93, has just been announced, was a member of a family honourably connected with British Guiana. Mr. Garnett succeeded Mr. Jones as Secretary of the Demerara Railway Company in 1857, and held that position until 1862, when he was in turn succeeded by Mr. V. P. Sells, the father of Mr. H. Martin Sells, late Secretary, and now Director of that Company. Mr. Garnett was a senior partner in the firm of Garnett & Tarbert, solicitors. He was uncle of Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. Russell Garnett, and the late Hon. George Garnett, C.M.G.

\* \* \*

IN the course of a debate on Food Prices in the House of Commons on February 17th, Mr. Runciman made what may be regarded as rather a significant statement. Defending the financial measures taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his colleagues on the outbreak of war, he said that in a war of such magnitude as the present people were brought into the closest contact with first principles. These principles had been tested again and again, and it might be that when the war was over they would have to modify many of their hitherto accepted methods; but he, for one, would always desire to know whether the proposed modifications were likely to make things better.

### CASTLETON GARDENS, JAMAICA.

Through the courtesy of the Duchess of Sutherland, we are able to reproduce in the present issue an exceedingly picturesque photograph of Castleton Gardens, Jamaica, taken by Her Grace during a West Indian tour last winter. These beautiful gardens lie on the banks of the Wag Water River, in St. Mary's Parish, about nineteen miles from Kingston on the road between the capital and Annotto Bay. Established in 1862, they now contain a large collection of tropical plants and palms in lavish profusion, besides many valuable economic spice and fruit trees. Though by no means the oldest—and the Garden in St. Vincent dates from 1763—the Castleton Gardens have few equals for attractive charm and beauty.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda (5s.; post free 5s. 4d.), are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.



### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE note of confidence and optimism is becoming accentuated. And that at a moment when from the German standpoint our temperature should be at zero. The commencement of the "blockade" of our coasts finds the British people more assured regarding the final issue than at any period since August. The reason is ready at hand. Official prophecies respecting the pressure exercised by the Navy are being verified by the German Admiralty. The "blockade" is generally recognised as the last desperate throw of the dice.

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THE musical incentive to recruiting is being steadily fostered, and subscriptions are coming in freely for the provision of bands. In another direction also a change for the better has been made. More light is to be thrown on the deeds of our men at the front. We have not yet reached the stage of permitting the presence of war correspondents in France and Belgium, but more frequent accounts are to be despatched from official sources. Sir John French will forward reports twice a week.

\* \* \*

ALIKE in Parliament and outside of Westminster interest is largely centred in the rising price of food. The Government declines to fix maximum charges. Mr. Asquith reminding the public that we are in a state of war, and the state of war has created enormous demands by the Government on the merchant shipping of the country. Hence until the transport situation has been eased a little we cannot expect very much improvement. Even so matters might be far worse. We are told for instance that in New York the price of the quartern loaf is rs. 4d.—just double the maximum in Great Britain. New York in fact seems to be suffering more acutely than London in other respects. For instance, in the theatrical world, the stagnation of the American metropolis contrasts with the activity on this side.

\* \* \*

LONDONERS have been glad to cheer General Garibaldi, who has spent a few days with us. There is something apposite in the visit at such a time of the son of the Italian liberator. The gallant deaths in France of two sons of the distinguished visitor have invested the name of Garibaldi with a new glamour. To obtain funds for the enlistment of 30,000 men to fight for the Allied cause has moved General Garibaldi to visit London and Paris. He anticipates the intervention of Italy at no distant date.

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THE advancement of British trade interests is being keenly studied. So far from obscuring those interests the war has kindled a fresh enthusiasm. Peace whenever it comes will find British manufacturers more alert than ever. In this connection the Board of Trade has arranged an exhibition, on the lines of the famous Leipzig Fair. This exhibition

is to be held at the Agricultural Hall in May, and it is anticipated that the samples shown will be more widely representative than is sometimes the case.

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WITHIN recent days some interesting sidelights have been thrown on our resources both in men and money. Six months ago it might have seemed incredible that Great Britain would be able to raise an army of 3,000,000 men. Yet the army estimates for this number will, we are assured, be made good, at the present rate of recruiting, comparatively soon. Criminal acts certainly were the German bombardment of, and the Zeppelin attack on, the East coast, but they have undoubtedly hastened the rush to the colours.

\* \* \*

AN admitted difficulty has been the question of officers. Thousands are required, and to a young man of education and ambition, the Army presents possibilities unknown since the days of Napoleon. Yet it must not be supposed that the existence of the need on a large scale will facilitate the entrance of the unfit. True, one or two undesirable characters have managed to obtain temporary commissions, but their prompt expulsion by Lord Kitchener indicates a determination to keep the Army at a high standard of morale.

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WHAT constitutes a dependant? The question has been raised by our friend Sir Henry Blake. Writing to the *Times*, the ex-Governor of Jamaica, puts in a plea for the aunts. These good ladies, he points out, are oftentimes maintained by nephews, whose enlistment would affect them financially. There will be little disposition to quarrel with Sir Henry, since nephews who thus interpret their moral responsibilities represent the type of men most likely to make good soldiers. Moreover, the country is in the mood to act generously towards all those who answer the call.

\* \* \*

LABOUR troubles of one kind or another crop up here and there in the country. The price of food is in large part the cause. War, however, has robbed these disputes of the bitterness so conspicuous in times of peace, and reason on one side and tact on the other are leading to quick settlements. Every month that passes witnesses the growth of unity among all sections of our people.

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GERMANY may hope to retain Belgium, but she is alone in the delusion. Already practical men are discussing the means of resurrection. In latter years the town-planning propaganda has made great headway in this country, and our own experts together with refugee architects and surveyors from Flanders are discussing plans for the rebuilding of the shattered communities across the water. Ancient monuments and churches cannot be replaced, but the narrow streets and congested by-ways will give place to a healthier and more spacious Belgium.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

COTTON seed flour is being advanced as food for man. Although, however, it contains a considerable amount of protein, there is no gluten body in it, and it therefore requires mixing with wheat flour for breadmaking. It is just possible, however, from what has been observed in experiments upon animals that large quantities might have a bad effect upon men. This question of toxicity is, we are glad to see, under investigation.

SOME experiments have recently been made by some American scientists on the subject of beri-beri. Prisoners in a Manila prison were divided into two classes. The one class had for diet white rice only, the other white rice and an alcoholic extract of rice polishings. Beri-beri was produced in those prisoners who had the polished rice diet only. The experiments, also, gave no indication whatever that beri-beri was infectious. None of the prisoners experimented upon showed signs of scurvy.

THE results of some experiments on the water requirements of plants are published in the October number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*. Expressing the "water requirement" as the ratio of the weight of water absorbed by a plant during its growth to the weight of dry matter produced, the water requirement of wheat was found to vary from 364 to 457, according to the variety cultivated; of rice, from 558 to 722; of flax, 905; sugar beet, 524; cotton, 488 to 657; maize, 239 to 315; alfalfa, 659; and of clover, 638.

THE same magazine states that investigations recently conducted at the University of Tennessee, have led to the discovery that the composition of soils is such as to make it impossible for there to be any long continued occurrence in them of magnesium carbonate, and the conclusion is arrived at that this body cannot be a constituent of soils in a damp condition. The affinity of magnesia for silica is stated to be such that magnesium carbonate is extensively decomposed by silica, as well as by the closely allied compound titanium oxide, which is a common constituent of soils.

THE production of sulphate of ammonia from peat has now become a commercial success. The process adopted is the "water gas," hot air and steam playing on an incandescent mass of peat. The red hot peat decomposes the water vapour, a part of the hydrogen of which combines with the nitrogen of the peat forming ammonia. The gases thus produced are washed and conducted into a chamber where they come in contact with sulphuric acid, sulphate of ammonia being formed. It is said that sulphate of ammonia can be produced for from 4s. 10d. to 5s. 7d. per cwt., as compared with 12s.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.



THE R.M.S.P. *Trent*, which was due to arrive at Falmouth on Saturday, February 20th, did not reach that port until the 22nd, and letters were consequently not delivered in London until the morning of the 23rd. Fortunately, the prompt representations made by the West India Committee to the Post Office have resulted in the departure of the outward mail steamer, which sails this time from Liverpool, being delayed until February 25th, and it will therefore be just possible for merchants to answer their letters. In view of the situation which has arisen since the time-table was altered by the declaration of a "blockade" of England, some little inconvenience must be expected, but the present arrangement must be regarded as purely temporary. Mr. Tripp records the death of two well-known members of the Trinidad community, the Hon. Eugene Cipriani and Mr. J. J. Ribeiro, who are the subject of special memoirs in another column. The climatic conditions were variable in the West Indies, when the mail left, a peculiar feature being the absence of the trade-wind, on which Sir Frederick Clarke comments. The following notes are extracts from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents.

#### BARBADOS—Curious absence of the Trade Wind.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., FEBRUARY 8th.—I am glad to hear that you have taken up the matter of the Dutch Standard used in Canada. The Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce have addressed letters to the Right. Hon. G. E. Foster on the subject. The weather has been very unusual for this time of the year. It has been very dry over the greater part of the island, while the Leeward district has had a small flood. There is an absence of the usual N.E. trade wind, and the breeze blows pretty well round the compass in the twenty-four hours. Mr. Fonda, who is visiting the West Indies in the interest of the Fine Spinners Association, addressed a meeting of the Agricultural Society, to which cotton growers had been specially invited. He emphasised the importance of seed selection in order to keep up a uniform quality of staple, and impressed on his hearers the necessity for good tillage and manuring to produce a large return.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—Mr. J. M. Reid joins the Army.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, FEBRUARY 6th.—The weather during the first part of the fortnight was showery. This week heavy rains fell during the early morning of the 4th, flooding the low lying parts of the town, and continued during that day. Since then it has been showery at intervals—4.82 ins. were registered in Georgetown on the 4th, and an average of 3½ inches recorded on the East Coast and East Bank. The heaviest fall was on the West Coast, where 9 inches were registered on one estate in two days. At a meeting of the Planters' Association, held on the 25th ult., a letter was read from Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co., with reference to arranging for a new and up-to-date basis for the payment of farmers' canes. A Committee consisting of Messrs. J. M. Fleming, C. H. Neilson, H. F. Murray, W. M. B. Shields, and H. L. Humphrys, were

appointed to go into the matter, and later on it is proposed that the Committee should meet the Secretary of the Local Government Board and several of the cane farmers with a view of arriving at some agreement. Meetings of the Court of Policy were held on the 25th ult., 1st and 2nd inst. Speech Day of Queen's Royal College was held on the 22nd ult. At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, on the 27th ult., Hon. C. Clementi presiding, Mr. Rodway gave a lecture on "War in Demerara." The net proceeds of the concert held on the 20th ult. in the Assembly Rooms for the benefit of the Belgian Relief Fund amounted to \$114.18. A very successful and entertaining Concert was given in the Assembly Rooms on the evening of the 3rd inst., in aid of the hospital ships at Southampton. Mr. J. M. Reid, Comptroller of Customs, is a passenger by the mail to England. He has been given a Commission in the Army, with the rank of Captain. Mr. L. A. R. Davis, Chief Clerk, will act as Comptroller, and Mr. C. J. Bosche-Reitz, Surveyor will act as Chief Clerk. Mr. T. H. Dalgleish, of the local branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, has been appointed to the management of the branch at Antigua. The 8th annual meeting of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society was held on the 1st instant at the Town Hall.

#### DOMINICA—The Coastal Steamer Service.

MR. R. A. AGAR, JANUARY 5th.—You were quite right to put my views on the *Yare* as my personal views, but they in no way conflict with those expressed by your correspondent on page 9, CIRCULAR 425. No one is more alive to the island's responsibilities towards the planters on the windward coast than I am, but one must admit that this continued raising of the subsidy, and for a service at which many persons grumble, is getting too much of a good thing. What I hope is that the Government will face the problem seriously, and get a steamer that will really satisfy all requirements as far as is reasonable. Nothing but a steamer will suit this business. We have begun rain again, I am sorry to say, another week or two of fine weather would have ripened the lime wood for flowering better. The following is a complete list to the end of the year of our contributions towards Patriotic Funds, exclusive of the Government ones which you already know.

Belgian Relief Fund	369	1	7
Princess Mary Fund (per Mrs. Porter)	47	10	0
Prince of Wales' Fund	50	0	0
Queen Mary's Needlework Guild (per Miss Macintyre)	36	15	0
French Red Cross Fund (per Mr. A. Giraud, French Consul)	56	18	7½
	£560	5	2½

Except in the case of the French Red Cross Fund, the Colonial Bank has remitted these sums free of charge. Two successful concerts contributed largely to these amounts. Mrs. Woolward was able to give £50 to the Prince of Wales' Fund, £1 14s. 7d. to Princess Mary's Fund, £8 to Queen Mary's Guild, £10 to the Belgian Fund, and £2 1s. 8d. to the French Red Cross Fund, while Mrs. Didier divided the proceeds of her concert between the Belgian Relief Fund and the Red Cross Fund, £63 10s. 7½d. and £21 3s. 6½d. Besides this, fruit for the wounded has been forwarded by the Agricultural and Commercial Society as follows, 102 barrels and 48 boxes limes, 16 barrels and 24 boxes oranges, and 20 boxes grapefruit, which can be valued at about £120.

#### JAMAICA—Generous donations to the mother country.

MR. BERESFORD S. GOSSERT, FEBRUARY 1st.—The drought seems to have broken, and we have had nice rains in this district for January. I was in Trelawny last week, and

was glad to see they also had been having good rains. The canes on the seaside estates look well. If the rains continue the estates should do well. In the western interior they had unusually heavy rains all during 1914, fully 25 per cent. more than the average, which has done well for the banana planters and cattle pens in that district.

The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company have kindly informed the CIRCULAR that the state of the various assistance funds on January 21st was as under.

The Gleaner Jamaica Relief War Fund	£9,061	12	8
Central War Fund	£10,776	1	1

Towards the latter Public Officers and Government employees contributed £1,983 18s. 10d. The planters have accepted £17 per ton for sugar for the gift to the mother country of the value of £50,000. Mr. P. R. Milholland, son of the Crown Solicitor has been appointed a second lieutenant in the Yorkshire Regiment (Princess of Wales' Own). The Jamaica Agricultural Society shipped in the *Chagres* 306 boxes of grape-fruit, 347 boxes of oranges, five cases (27½ lbs.) of guava jelly, three boxes of ginger sugar and five boxes (100 lbs. each) of banana figs, for our soldiers and sailors. The *Gleaner* has also shipped cigars value £120 13s. 8d. for distribution among our soldiers and sailors.

#### MONTSERRAT—Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Jarvis return home.

MR. K. P. PENCHON, FEBRUARY 5th.—Some good rains, from 1 to 2 inches, which unfortunately were not general to this extent, fell on the afternoon and night of the 1st February. This is of considerable benefit to the crops now planted, cane and corn. The area to be planted in cotton will be considerably reduced this year. His Honour Leslie Jarvis, Esq., Acting Commissioner, and his wife, left for England by S.S. *Salybia*, on the 26th ult. We are sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis from amongst us. Hon. E. F. Dyett, Assistant Treasurer is Acting Commissioner until the arrival of Captain Elgee on the 12th to fill the place. Mr. and Mrs. Hollender, and five children, arrived here by the Royal Mail steamer on the 31st ult. Mrs. Hollender is a native of this island, and has been in England, where she married Mr. Hollender, for twenty years. She was a Miss Kirwan, of Water Works Estate, one of the oldest families in Montserrat. She, her husband and children received a most cordial welcome from the labourers of the estates, and from the people generally.

#### NEVIS—The Hamilton's Estate changes hands.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, FEBRUARY 3rd.—I am able to report that really seasonable rains have been falling during the past four weeks. The planting of canes is also a pleasant feature, and is progressing, though there is great difficulty in obtaining cane plants, owing to the almost abandonment of cane for cotton during the past few years. The present prices ruling, and the hope of a good future seems to have given the stimulus for falling back on cane. The war and the rise in price of cereals have shown that land in England may be very lucratively employed in growing wheat, oats, etc., excluding beet, since the British sugar producing colonies are quite able to supply the mother country with enough pure cane sugar for all purposes, and are willing to do so if only the home government would promise its support to the stability of the industry. I am quite sure, however, that you will lose no opportunity in pressing home the case for colonial sugar, and must wish you the success the question richly deserves. The Hamiltons Estate, situate in St. John's parish, was sold by Mr. E. S. Delisle, of St. Kitts, to H. C. Huggins, Esq., of this island.

**ST. LUCIA—Local contributions to the Relief Funds.**

HON. G. S. HUDSON, FEBRUARY 5th.—There is as yet no indication of an early or severe dry season, January's rainfall being about 6 inches. No doubt the sugar cane people would prefer somewhat drier weather for their approaching crop operations. Captain Turner, harbour master at Castries leaves this mail to take up a similar appointment at Mombasa. Our staff officer, Captain Henderson, also leaves to join the Leicesters en route for the front, after doing excellent work here since the war began. Mr. Twose, accountant at the Colonial Bank, Castries, has been promoted to the managership at Antigua. His Honour W. D. Young and Miss Young are also likely to leave this mail I believe. Subscriptions actually sent from St. Lucia to help the war, are:—

St. Lucia Government, cash remitted for Prince of Wales' Fund	£1,000
St. Lucia Government, cash remitted to buy St. Lucia cacao in London for the troops	2,000
Public subscription, cash remitted to Red Cross Fund	622
Concert (Miss Cooper), cash remitted to Belgian Fund	25
Miss McHugh, 450 bottles guava jelly subscribed by the public	20

We are all grieved to see the name of our previous Staff Officer, Captain Strachan of the Black Watch, in the list of killed: he was a good fellow. The recent continued rise in the price of cacao following the prohibition of export to neutral countries is very helpful and cheering.

**ST. VINCENT—Mr. Fonda's tour of inspection.**

MR. W. N. SANDS, FEBRUARY 6th, 1915.—Dr. Francis Watts, C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mr. J. L. Fonda, representing the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association of Manchester, have been here during the past ten days. Both gentlemen have paid visits to different districts including the Carib Country. The visits of these gentlemen were very timely, in view of the somewhat critical agricultural situation in the Colony, owing to the adverse effect of the war on our staple products. Dr. Watts has been discussing with Administrator and planters schemes for the extension of planting of food crops for export such as maize, peas and beans, and a partial substitution of these for cotton and arrowroot, while Mr. Fonda has gone thoroughly into the conditions under which Sea Island cotton is grown locally, and has discussed with planters the difficulties associated with the cultivation and marketing of the crop. The Hon. Courad J. Simmons and Mrs. Simmons returned to the colony from England by the mail.

**TOBAGO—Poor prospects before the cacao crop.**

MR. ROBERT S. REID, FEBRUARY 4th.—This mail—five days late to us—brought your letters of 29th December and 12th January and the two CIRCULARS. The latter I have just had time to glance at, and I am pleased to see that you have taken up so vigorously the questions of our mail service and the encouragement to cane sugar, in both of which I trust good results may follow. Our relief funds are merged in Trinidad, and no doubt Mr. Tripp will send you full particulars. I trust you will call them "from Trinidad and Tobago." Since our new war taxes were imposed not much has been collected, but we must start anew as the needs of the Red Cross must be increasing with these terrible battles which go on from day to day. Since last mail only light drizzles have fallen, with the exception of one good day's rain. In January, the rainfall was 4.89 inches, rather under the average, but better than 1914. The dry weather has ruined the prospects of our cacao crop. Already pickings have fallen off, and comparatively

little cacao is expected until Autumn, unless exceptional weather conditions prevail. Prices have further improved on the reports that the prohibition of exports to the Continent have been withdrawn, and last sales were at \$13.50 to \$14.10. Although no quotations are given in public telegrams from New York, very large exports are going to that port, and a continued demand from there would doubtless tend to increase prices. Copra now fetches \$4.25 per 100 lbs., but coco-nuts are still very low, for lack of demand. At Scarborough to-day there is a school show which you will find reported in the *Sunday's Gazette or Mirror*. We now look forward to the Agricultural Show to be held in Port of Spain on 26th to 28th February, which will doubtless attract visitors from the other islands. A further sale of lands—about 250 acres—is reported to Grenada planters, and others will doubtless follow. Land in Tobago is obtainable on much cheaper terms than in Grenada, and is said to be even better suited for growing cacao. We have almost given up hope of Tobago for sugar growing, although in the Leeward large areas are available if the necessary capital were forthcoming. By last mail Mrs. Murray, senior, of Kendal Place, left for the old country, but I don't think there will be many travellers in that direction this year on account of the war and the 25 per cent. increase in passage money, which seems unjustifiable. The recent air raids must have placed you on the *qui vive*. I trust you will be equally successful in driving off invaders in the future, although I would prefer that you "clip their wings" next time.

**TRINIDAD—The progress of the Assistance Funds.**

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, FEBRUARY 3rd.—The amounts remitted to date from Trinidad and Tobago to the mother country were:—

Patriotic Fund of the Chamber of Commerce	\$48,000
Port of Spain <i>Gazette</i> , Widows and Orphans Fund	9,600
<i>Mirror's</i> Belgium Relief Fund	6,672
Red Cross Fund	17,520
Blue Cross Fund	210
	\$82,002

Orange and Lime Committee, 1,146 crates and 30 barrels oranges, 353 crates limes, 45 crates grape-fruit, 3 crates lemons. Mrs. J. A. Rapsey, 10 cases clothing, Mrs. Randolph Rust 1 case clothing, Mrs. Hugh McLelland 1 case hooks and magazines and 1 case clothing. The doings of the enemy in the Irish Sea are disquieting, but we look confidently for the reply—something in the nature of that received by Admiral Spee, and the Scarborough scoundrels.

In view of cabled news of the great boom in shipping following the lean months after the declaration of war, we are hoping that the Royal Mail Company will shortly see its way to revert to the old itinerary. The new one, of course, would not have been accepted without the strongest protest, but for the extraordinary circumstances prevailing at the time. The S.S. *Mayaro*, of the Trinidad Line, sailed last week with 25,000 bags of cacao for New York, a record shipment in one bottom. The previous largest shipment was some years ago by the *Dec*, for London, 14,000 bags. At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture, held recently at San Fernando, the members, after visiting the cassava cultivation at Palmiste, Sir Norman Lamont's Estate, were addressed on the subject by Mr. Vyvyan Board, who has erected a factory there for the purpose of dealing with the root. Mr. Board said that "of all the tropical countries which he had considered to choose from Trinidad suggested itself as being the most favourable," and he saw no reason why the industry should not be as profitable here as it had proved in other parts of the world.

Mr. Freeman drew attention to the value of cassava in the rotation of crops, and Sir Norman related his experience of the cultivation to date. Altogether a very instructive meeting. At same time the report of the Sugar Committee on the possible extension of this industry, was read. I enclose a copy, but I understand that one or two additions are still to be made. The report is a comprehensive and able one, but the gist is in the final paragraph. "Fresh capital would not be forthcoming without a guarantee that prices would be higher than during recent years. The only way in which this guarantee could be secured appeared to be that a preference should be given by the Imperial Government to sugar produced in the British Empire."

For some time past local society has been looking forward to the presentation of a Musical Comedietta entitled "A Night at St. Mary's," the special interest being in the fact that it was composed and written by our senior Puisne Judge, A. D. Russell. His Honour was known to be extremely fond of music—some of the lawyers avow that a trace of rhythm is perceptible in some of his judgments—but previously he had not been known amongst us as an author. The scene was laid at one of the favourite seaside resorts at Gasparillo, overlooking the first Boca, depicted in the moonlight most delightfully by the scenic artist, whoever that talented man or lady may be. The tale was of an island party landed from a broken down launch, of their love-making and other adventures during the night. The libretto was clever and amusing, and the music very toneful and pleasing to the ear, more than one of the numbers being specially so. I am not very competent in such matters, but both a trio and a solo, which were well rendered, appeared to me to be of exceptional merit, whilst the whole performance was excellent. A crowded audience, which included the Governor, warmly applauded both actors and author, the latter receiving an enthusiastic call at the conclusion. The Comedietta was preceded by the representation of four famous pictures by tableaux, "Les Huguenots," "Summer Moon," "Dante's Dream," and "No Thoroughfare" (Punch), about which it is impossible to speak too highly. They were simply perfect. Mrs. Stoer, nee Agostini, and her sisters were, I believe, responsible for this beautiful part of the programme.

The cacao market was fairly steady during the early part of the month, but on receipt of the news of the prohibition of exports from the United Kingdom to the Continent, and the decline in the London market, prices fell to \$11.85 for ordinary and \$12.10 for Estates. The receipts from Venezuela have been large, and have met a good market up to \$14.10 to \$14.25. Sugar grinding is now general throughout the colony, and appearances point to a satisfactory crop. Shipments of coco-nuts are up to average. The increase in exports of copra may be attributed to the recent fall in the value of the nut.

FEBRUARY 9th.—I wrote you for mail due to leave yesterday, but it has been delayed until to-day resulting in the *Edro*, the outward boat, and the *Trent* for home, being in the harbour together, a record occurrence in the history of the mail service. As the mails by the latter have been extended until 3 p.m., some of us will make an effort to send speedy replies to the correspondence from Europe which will be delivered about noon, earlier, of course, to those of us who have private boxes at the Post Office. Cacao has taken a further rise to between \$17 and \$18. I have also to record with regret the death yesterday of the Hon. Eugenio Cipriani, from 1888 to 1910 a member of the Legislative Council, and one of those who after resignation were allowed to retain the title of Honourable. There also occurred last week the death of a well-known Portuguese merchant, Mr. J. J. Ribeiro. Both the deceased were

wealthy men, their united estates will probably be proved for something like £500,000, and a considerable sum will accrue to the Treasury from the death duties.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during month of January, 1915, were as under:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	2,062,970
B.N. America	117,566
United States of America	5,176,891
France	49,000
Total for January	7,406,433

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### An Appeal to Patriotic Absentees.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—When the withdrawal of the garrison from this island was finally decided upon, the question of adequate internal protection was raised, and one suggestion was that a mounted force on the lines of the Royal Irish Constabulary should be established: expense was to be defrayed by a direct tax on land, and as this already bore large burdens some of us cast about for an expedient to avoid the threatened imposition. This took the form of a Volunteer Mounted Infantry Corps, which Mr. C. P. Bowen successfully raised in 1905.

At first the strength was well maintained, but, gradually, principally owing to mal-administration, we got weaker and weaker, and it was entirely owing to the appointment of an Adjutant, and to the extremely hard and intelligent work of that officer—the late Captain B. C. Wright, that this company, and probably the entire Volunteer Force, owes its present existence.

The terms of service in our company are as follows:—  
1. Enlistment for 3 years, and thereafter for 1 year at a time.

2. Men find their uniforms, saddlery and horses.  
3. For efficiency every man gets a yearly grant of £5.  
4. To be efficient every trained man must put in at least 10 parades per annum and a complete course of musketry.

The Drill Season is arranged from July to February, so as not to interfere with the crop work, and there is absolutely no good reason why membership of the Force should cause any neglect of a man's duties on his estate; his absence being probably half a day 12 to 13 times a year, and yet we want men even in a time like this, when one would think everything possible would be done in this line. There are plenty of men that would join, but I fear that some of their "bosses" do not look with favour on the Force, and perhaps, although not distinctly stating their objection, put it in such a way that no one would care to risk losing his job by belonging to the Force. I understand that one excuse has been made by certain agricultural attorneys representing absentee proprietors, that the owners may not approve: and this letter is to appeal through your columns to the absentee proprietors of this island to help us. I do not think it would be of much use merely consenting to their men joining: they should insist on one man at least, from every one of their properties being a member of the company. This company was especially raised to, and is maintained for the protection of, the country districts, and it is the positive duty of estate owners to support. Should the company drop through I have no doubt other means will be taken to safeguard the estates, but it will not be cheap.

You must excuse this lengthy epistle, but most of the men in the Mounted Infantry Company, which I have had the honour to command for several years, have put in 7 to 9 years service, and openly say that it is time others came in to do their duty, and unless fresh blood joins the company may die.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
S. C. THORNE.

Molyneux, St. James, Barbados.

#### Sugar Production within the Empire.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—May I draw attention to the fact that there is a strong belief among those promoting the beetroot industry in this country that British West Indians are opposed to the present assistance granted to that industry by way of freedom from Excise and grants from the Development Fund. There is no question that such treatment is contrary to the professed fiscal convictions of the present Government, and that it constitutes preferential treatment of Imperial grown sugar which we have always advocated as in the true interests of the sugar consumers in this country. But opposition on our part is unlikely to have any effect, and if it did I am confident that we should not gain by it. We advocate preferential treatment of British grown sugar not only in the interests of the British West Indies, but in the conviction that it will benefit the consumers in the United Kingdom, because it will broaden the area and increase the supplies from which they can draw. That being our position, we ought surely to welcome any move in that direction by the present Government! If successful it would be the strongest argument in favour of similar treatment for British Colonies, by which means alone can capital be attracted for the development of the industry. If unsuccessful we are no worse off. We have no right nor can we have any wish to interfere with the development of a home beetroot industry, which in the opinion of many, myself among the number, may prove of great assistance to our agricultural industry. We want a permanent footing in the United Kingdom markets as a condition of our developing our production for that market. If, in consideration, it is decided that it is not in the best interests of the United Kingdom consumers to give us that footing, we remain as we are, with the market—viz., Canada capable of absorbing all our present production secured to us by the Trade arrangement of 1912. We may hold and express our own views as to the prospects of beet-growing in England not being successful, but I venture to hope that no further criticism unfavourable to the Government's efforts to establish it will be heard from anyone connected with the British West Indies, because such criticism can only do harm to British West Indian interests.

London, 19th February. C. SANDRACH PARKER.

#### The Development of British Guiana.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I note with interest and pleasure that the West Indies and British Guiana are once more being brought prominently before the British public. Let us also hope that Britishers at home now see the mistake in fostering the many manufactories of foreign countries. Let them give their colonies and British possessions a fair start, and they will find that we can compete with all comers. Now is the time.

Let us take the situation here. We have a grand country that can grow canes, rice, limes, coco-nuts, and many other

things too numerous to name, that has gold and diamond bearing fields, large forests that supply timber and balata, and savannahs on which cattle thrive well.

Let the colony introduce 10,000 people a year. Let the estates agree to receive these people under the existing Immigration Ordinance for five years. The planters will be doing their full share if they take and employ those people, and will have no grievance if they leave at the end of five years. It may be contended that the introduction of such a large labour force under indenture would prejudice the position of the free labourers now engaged on the sugar estates by depriving them of their present opportunities for employment. The reply to this argument is that it is not to be supposed that the sugar planters assured of such an indent of immigrants annually, and with the prospect of fair prices for their produce, would be content simply to maintain their present acreage under cane. There would be an immediate extension of cultivation which would absorb a large proportion of the surplus labour. Moreover, it is known that the present Government proposes a number of highly necessary irrigation schemes on various parts of the coast. A large volume of free labour will be required for these works, and on their completion a number of the resident population now employed on the sugar estates who own unirrigated land which it is not profitable at present to cultivate, will cease to be labourers and become an independent peasantry, making a living from their farms. I particularly refer to what is certain to happen on the Corentyne Coast when the Government's schemes are carried to completion.

If the indenture system I suggest were tried, I should expect to see the sugar industry increase by leaps and bounds. I should be very surprised if larger and more up-to-date factories were not established, and I should also expect to see cane-farming put on a sound and lasting basis. We should rival Cuba both as regards quantity and cost per ton.

Yours truly,

19, Brick Dam, Georgetown,  
Demerara.

H. E. MURRAY,

### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.

Moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year ended December 31st last at the annual general meeting on February 11th, Mr. Aspinall congratulated the shareholders upon the progress made. He regretted that owing to continued ill-health Mr. C. A. Philip, whom all were glad to see at the meeting, had not been able to resume his duties as manager. But the trading of the Association during a period of exceptional difficulty had resulted in an increased net profit. During the short period of panic buying, in the first few weeks of the war, the Directors had endeavoured to treat all customers fairly and there had been no exaggerated inflation of prices. In this connection he would mention that they had received from the Council of the City of London School a resolution expressing the Board's satisfaction at their having carried out their contracts without making any claim for losses resulting from the sudden rise in price in all commodities. This had been their policy towards all their customers, and he hoped that it would meet with its reward when peace was restored. He regretted that the Association was not better patronised by those immediately connected with the West Indies, and the residents in those colonies. Still, satisfactory progress was being made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tapply, and carried unanimously. A dividend of 7 per cent. for the year was approved, and the retiring director and auditors having been re-elected, the proceedings terminated.

### Trinidad and the South African Gold Trust.

Lord Harris—who is a son of Lord Harris, Governor of Trinidad from 1846 to 1853—presiding at the general meeting of the South African Gold Trust on February 16th said that in Trinidad the mineral rights of the company extended over 71,000 acres. Extensive and detailed geological examinations had been carried out and had given satisfactory results. Already five wells had been drilled and the bulk samples had been analysed and refined and reported on very favourably. The oil was especially pure and could be treated with great ease, and the company was in negotiation with the Trinidad Government for permission to lay a pipeline from their property to the sea.

### ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Oriana*, (Captain F. E. Kite), Feb. 24th:—

Mr. W. Greig	Mr. and Mrs. J. S. de la Mathe	Miss Collier
Mr. E. W. H. Collier	Mr. & Mrs. M. A. French	Misses Packer (2)
Mr. A. J. Bennett	Miss French	Mr. A. A. Harris
Mr. G. H. Wood	Mrs. J. G. French	Mr. T. L. Blackwood
Mrs. E. Sadler	Mr. & Mrs. Howle	Mr. A. Hamilton
Master Sadler	Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Collier	Mr. F. Bale
		Mr. W. O. Newsum

### ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, March 10th:—

Canon C. Yarbrough	Mr. S. C. Harland	Misses Mahaffy (3)
Miss M. C. Yarbrough	Mr. & Mrs. Mahaffy	

### ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Orissa*, March 24th:—

Mr. C. Rovell	Mr. W. G. Tomiss	Mr. & Mrs. S. Walker
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Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Prices Feb. 22.
Antigua ... 4%	Redeemable 1919-44	97
Barbados ... 3%	Redeemable 1925-44	85 x1
British Guiana ... 4%	Redeemable 1935	98
British Guiana ... 3%	Redeemable 1923-45	76
Grenada ... 4%	Redeemable 1917-44	96
Jamaica ... 4%	Redeemable 1934	99
Jamaica ... 3%	Redeemable 1919-49	87
Jamaica ... 3%	Redeemable 1922-44	78
St. Lucia ... 4%	Redeemable 1919-44	97
Trinidad ... 4%	Redeemable 1917-42	98
Trinidad ... 3%	Redeemable 1922-44	77
The Colonial Bank ...		54
7%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...	87½
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...	95½
4½%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½% Debentures	102
3%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	100½
4½%	Imperial Direct Line 4½% Debentures ...	100½
	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	15/14
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures ...	103½
7%	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	3/9½
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. 1½% Shares ...	7½
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (1½% paid) ...	par
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	124
4%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	104
	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref. ...	79
	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	89½
4½%	Direct West India Cable Co. 4½% Debentures	99
7/6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	84
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	84
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures ...	90½

### EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Jan. 28, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	1913
Sugar ...	7,172	10,625 Tons.	15,583	6,317 Tons
Molasses ...		50,805		5uns.
Rum ...	592,706	520,354	1,086,405	1,017,751
Molasses, &c. ...	187	469 Tons.		
Cacao ...	11,202	15,525 lbs.	8,470,448	5,591,728
Coffee ...	160	1,000	8,658,272	6,889,456
Coco-nuts ...	89,063	144,670 No.	29,312,230	23,671,228
Oranges ...			14,681,630	45,513,653
Bananas ...			16,231,860	11,419,286
Cotton ...			13,357	57,695
Pimento ...			37,284	138,803
Ginger ...			16,831	19,833
Honey ...			145,951	121,479
Dyewoods			60,659	50,803
Gold ...	6,520	4,938 ozs.		
Diamonds		1009 Carats.		
Rice ...	2,452,857	1,811,965 lbs.		
Halats ...	183,291	103,156		
Rubber ...	230			
Timber ...	19,293	12,024 cubic ft.	Attrwt. 3,797,326	... lbs.
Lumber ...	2,603	22,922 ft.	Cacao 238,359	... lbs.
Lime (citrate of)			Cotton 520,666	... lbs.
			Seed 798,028	...

### Trinidad.

	Trinidad.		Oct. 1 to Feb. 7, 1914/15	1913/14
	Jan. 1 to Feb. 9, 1915	1914		
Sugar ...	142	204 Tons.		
Molasses ...	306	165 Puns.	33,267	11,124 Tons.
Rum ...	349	90	102,697	82,090 Puns.
Coco-nuts ...	478,700	1,053,480 No.		
Asphalt ...	2,947	3,838 Tons.		
Manjak ...		15		
Bitters ...	1,679	1,060 Cases.		
Coffee ...		4,000 lbs.		
Crode Petrol ...	41,780	951,374 Galls.		
Cacao ...	9,305,200	11,888,600 lbs.	5,606,440	4,404,420 lbs.
Cotton ...				
Seed				
Copra ...	1,589	674 Hags.	96	91 Bags.
Spice ...			458,430	437,240 lbs.
Kola ...			2,690	2,480

### Dominica

	Dominica		Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1913.	
	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.
Cacao ...	532,672		808,192 lbs.	
Limes ...	43,342		39,026 barrels.	
Lime Juice, raw ...	235,057		261,137 galls.	
" " concentrated ...	85,994		43,784	
" " Citrate of ...	4,272		1,614 cwts.	
Lime Oil, distilled ...	4,930		2,714 galls.	
" " equalled ...	1,057		641	
Hardwood ...	56,121		62,416 feet.	
Bananas ...	2,599		2,782 stems.	
Coconuts ...	409,546		320,181 No.	

### VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. F. C. Archer	Lt.-Col. W. B. Davidson	Mr. G. Kaitton
Mr. A. K. Agar	Houston, C.M.G.	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. A. F. Anderson	Mr. F. E. Everington	His Honour Mr. Justice P. M. C. Sherif
Mr. E. G. Braddon	Mr. W. M. Fleicher	P. M. C. Sherif
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. Wm. Smith
Mr. A. E. Brail	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart	and
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke	Mr. A. S. Ketchum	Mr. J. D. Wall
Mr. A. Campbell		

Mr. G. Carew, "Greylands," Ashburton, Devon.  
 Mr. E. P. Gladwin, "Homelacy," St. Andrews Road, Portsmouth, Sussex.  
 Mr. N. Scott Johnson, 26 Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.  
 Sir Frelene M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.  
 Major O. H. E. Mareaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.  
 Mr. H. E. McCulloch, 21 Corporation Street, Belfast.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. P. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 Dr. A. T. Ozzard, c/o Messrs. Holt & Co., Woodhead's Branch, 44, Charing Cross, W.C.  
 Mr. T. K. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.

### THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, (Commander E. W. Morrison), Falmouth, Feb. 9th:—

Mr. W. Greig	Mr. A. Lennan	Mr. R. A. Risha
Mr. R. H. Alexander	Mr. J. Langdon	Mrs. Risha
Mr. T. W. Bradshaw	Mrs. P. Murray	Mr. W. F. Stodart
Miss J. R. Dool	Mr. A. Morrison	Mr. A. Seman
Mr. W. H. L. Dewhirst	Mr. G. Mascall	Mr. & Mrs. G. Ureuhart
Mr. R. Garvey	Mrs. Mascall	Mr. A. F. White
Mr. A. B. Knight	Mr. F. H. McEwan	Mr. E. Webster
Mr. J. H. Lewis	Mr. S. Riley	

The new edition of the Pocket Guide to the West Indies (5s. net) includes chapters on British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bermudas, the Bahamas, the Spanish Main, and the Panama Canal.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.



**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from August 8th. War Loan is quoted at 94; Consols 68½. The Government announcement of the pooling of the financial resources of the Allies has met with general approval. The Treasury has forbidden the new New York Central Railway issue being dealt with in this country, in accordance with the recent regulations as to investment of British capital.

**SUGAR**—The January consumption figures for the United Kingdom show a decrease for those of the corresponding month of last year of 23,657 tons. During the last five months of last year the decrease in consumption was 81,000 tons as compared with the corresponding figures of 1913, or an average of 17,000 tons per month. There is every prospect, therefore, of considerably less consumption as the war progresses, and money conditions become more stringent. As regards possible sources of supply, it is interesting to note that 100,000 tons of Russian sugar were a few weeks ago bought for France, to be conveyed by rail to Norway, and thence by sea to its destination. This is half of their Convention export allowance. The stocks of raw sugar in the United Kingdom on the 21st of January were 312,250 tons. As these included grocery sugars, such as white Javas and Mauritius, which would go into direct consumption, as well as the inferior grades of these sugars which would find their way to the confectioners and preserve makers, no indication is afforded of the quantity in stock available for the refiners. The latter require about 80,000 tons of raw sugar per month, and as 200,000 tons of the Government Cuban purchases are still to arrive it would look very much as if the Sugar Commission's wants as regards refining sugar were filled for three or four months. In connection with the Customs figures for imports and stocks it is a pity that the method of division of sugars into raw and refined, in which the latter term is only applied to sugars which have passed through the hands of the refiners, is not revised. The making of white sugar for direct consumption direct from the cane juice is increasing, and so long as these are classed as raws, much of the value of the Board of Trade sugar figures is lost. As regards the European beet crop, Messrs. Willett and Gray give an estimate of 6,968,000 tons, as against the 8,185,000 ton crop last year. Germany is calculated to be 420,000 tons short, Austria-Hungary 103,000 tons, and France 50,000 tons short. Very little has been done in the London market as regards sales of West Indian sugars since the last summary. On the 16th 1,512 bags of Demerara sugars were partly sold at 27s., together with 433 bags Demerara syrups partly sold at 16s. 6d. to 16s. 9d., 300 bags Trinidad syrups fetched 16s. 3d. Yellow Mozambique crystals were put up to the extent of 9,502 pockets, and were in part sold at 20s. 6d. to 23s.

The West Indian Sugar Statistics for the period 1st January to 13th February are as follows:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	4,240	3,888	5,332	2,525	5,708
Deliveries	5,043	4,143	3,943	4,567	4,847
Stock on Feb. 13	5,206	12,351	3,228	2,448	5,219

In the New York market the rise in prices chronicled in our last issue continued, reaching a culminating point on the 8th February when sales of duty paid 96° sugar were made at \$5.02. From this point prices immediately declined and are now \$4.77 for 96° duty paid Cubans, and \$5.65 to \$5.90 for granulated. Better progress with the Cuban crop, owing to improved weather conditions, and to a less extreme view of the difficulty of obtaining freight facilities has brought about the decline. Latest advices as to the Cuban crop are now practically unanimous as to the impossibility of last year's crop being equalled, save

in the circumstance of an exceptionally prolonged crop season, and a shortage of 200,000 tons is regarded as probable.

**RUM**—The market remains in the same sound condition as at the date of the last Summary, the consumption figures for the last four months, apart from the Army and Navy requirements, showing a substantial increase on the corresponding figures for the previous year. Immediate delivery Demeraras have met with ready sale. Quotations: 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Pending the arrival of new crop rum, not much business has been done in Jamaicas, which may be quoted at from 3s. to 5s.

The stocks in London on February 13th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	5,257	5,098	6,406	7,878	8,290
Demerara	5,741	9,262	7,520	7,548	7,596
Total, all kinds	17,017	21,621	21,900	23,612	24,732

**CACAO**—A slight reaction from the strong rise in prices as the result of the removal of the export prohibition has occurred, and the market for West Indian kinds is easier. Trinidad middling red is quoted at 85s.; good middling red at 81s. to 82s.; fine to superior at 83s.; 78½ lbs Grenada were sold on the 16th at 1s. 10 to 2s. decline, the quotation for this kind being, for ordinary to good fair 75s. to 76s.; middling to fine 76s. 6d. to 78s. 6d. Other West Indian kinds are in fair demand at 1s. to 2s. reduction.

The Stocks in London on February 13th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	6,238	7,291	3,079	4,806	4,504
Grenada	5,086	4,962	3,087	10,319	12,242
Total, all kinds	57,429	82,087	68,735	108,050	105,871

**COTTON**—Up to the week ending 19th of February, 574 bales of British West Indian had been imported for the year. Sales have been confined to about 50 bales of medium Nevis at 12d. There has been some enquiry at this price, but no demand for better grades.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Juice, Raw—Scarce. Good Jamaica has sold at 2s. 9d., and Dominica up to 2s. 4d. per gallon. Concentrated only found buyers at £21, but no sales were effected at this figure. Lime Oil A good business has been done in distilled at 2s. 4½d., in spite of the fact that some sellers only ask 2s. to 2s. 2d. per lb. Hand-pressed has met with no demand. A nominal quotation is 6s. to 6s. 6d. per lb.

**NUTMEGS**—Are quoted 100's/80's at 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's and 140's/120's at 4½d. **MACE**—Shows some improvement. Good to fine is quoted at 2s. to 2s. 1½d.; red to good at 1s. 7d. to 2s., and broken at 8d. to 1s. 6d.

**LOGWOOD**—Nothing to report in this connection.

**COPRA**—There has been a strong market for fair merchantable West Indian, sales having been made at £27 to £27 10s.

**ARROWROOT**—Demand has improved. Sales have been effected of 600 to 700 barrels at 2d. to 4½d.

**RUBBER**—Crepe for February delivery has sold at 2s. 3½d.; for March, 2s. 3d.; for June 2s. 2½d.; for July-Dec., 2s. 1½d. Smoked sheet, for February delivery, 2s. 4½d.; for March 2s. 4½d.; for April-June 2s. 4½d.; for July-Dec., 2s. 2½d. Para is firm. Hard fine spot has been held for 2s. 6d.; for February, 2s. 5½d.; March-April delivery sold at 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d. Ball, only a small business doing, sellers wanting 2s. for spot sales. Castilloa sheet is now quoted at 1s. 1½d., and scrap at 1s. 6d.

**BALATA**—Prices are slightly better than at the date of last report. Sheet is selling at 2s. 3½d. spot terms, and block at 1s. 1½d. c.i.f.

**TIMBER**—The situation of the market remains the same as reported in the last Summary.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Prices range substantially higher, American being quoted at 8½d., and Water White at 9½d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.



The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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No. 429

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 0542 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.,  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON. *May 4th, 1915.*

### EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

**T**HE Committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, of which LORD SANDERSON was chairman, in their report which was published in 1910 recommended that Indian officers should be deputed to visit periodically the various colonies receiving emigrants and to report upon their welfare. Two years ago, in accordance, no doubt, with this suggestion, Mr. McNeill, of the Indian Civil Service, and Mr. Chinman Lal, a well-known business man in the United Provinces, visited in succession, Trinidad, British Guiana and Jamaica to investigate the conditions of life of the East Indian immigrants in those colonies. Their report has now been presented to the Viceroy's Council and, from the summary published in another column of the present issue, it will be noted that it fully confirms the views of the various commissions which have enquired into the subject as to the benefits which East Indian emigration confers on the emigrants themselves, as well as upon the colonies receiving them. It furnishes further evidence, too, of the advantages of the system of indenture, which it may be claimed has success-

fully stood the test of time. The Commissioners are no less emphatic than SURGEON D. W. D. COMINS, whose memorable report issued in 1891 furnishes a complete epitome of the history of the subject to that date, as to the desirability of East Indian immigration into the West Indies. It is true that they recommend the alteration of the immigration ordinances in certain respects; but their suggestions are not made with the object of restricting immigration but aim rather at perfecting the existing system. The recommendation that unsuitable emigrants should be excluded will be particularly welcome to proprietors, who will, we imagine, have little fault to find with the proposal to increase the proportion of females to the males. The extension of powers of adjudication to the Immigration authorities will, if effected, be appreciated by the East Indian community whose confidence in their fairness and impartiality has been proverbial since the celebrated Mr. Crosby held the position of Immigration Agent General in British Guiana—even to this day the immigrants speak of going to see "CROSBY" when they appeal to the department. The provision of separate places of detention for Indians who commit disciplinary breaches of the ordinances should tend to an increase of self-respect. With regard to the system generally the Commissioners state that following the example of the great majority of the emigrants themselves and their descendants they regard it as a system of colonization under which poor but industrious Indians whether landless labourers or the sons of poor cultivating landowners, who are content to be trained and acclimatized under private employers in need of a steady supply of labour, are offered prospects much more favourable than they could hope to realise at home. This report should do much to encourage the system of East Indian Immigration to lead to its development on a scale adequate to the great agricultural resources of British Guiana and the West Indies.

### TUBERCULOSIS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

**W**E have frequently made reference to the importance of checking the spread of tuberculosis in the West Indies; and to the measures taken for its prevention and treatment in the several colonies. In our issue of the 22nd April, 1913, we gave a summarised report of the proceedings of the first intercolonial congress dealing with the general subject held in Trinidad two years ago under the presidency of the HON. H. I. CLARE, Surgeon-General of the colony, in which delegates representing British and foreign interests through-

out the Caribbean took part; and hopes were expressed that remedial measures would follow in all countries and colonies represented at that Congress. In this connection we have pleasure in noting the report of the recent annual meeting of the British Guiana Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis, held at the Town Hall, Georgetown, under the presidency of the HON. C. CLEMENTI, Government Secretary, supported by the leading citizens and colonial authorities. DR. ROWLAND read a highly satisfactory report of the working of the Society in the past year, during which it conducted examinations and treatment by the honorary medical staff in the special dispensary, erected two or three years ago as a memorial to KING EDWARD VII., following this up by systematic inspection and supervision in the homes of the patients by the Society's own lady health visitors. In the report the importance of good housing, fresh air and ventilation and the avoidance of overcrowding are once more emphasized, and an appreciative reference is made to the services of SIR JOSEPH GODFREY, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana, who is now in charge of LADY WEMYSS' hospital for our sick and wounded troops in France. It was through his initiative that the establishment of the Society in 1907 on the lines of the earlier anti-tuberculosis society established in the Island of Trinidad through the instrumentality and energy of DR. GEORGE H. MASSON, was mainly due. In the course of his remarks following the adoption of the report, MR. CLEMENTI read the following interesting extract from SCHOMBURGK'S Description of British Guiana, published in 1840: "Tubercular consumption is unknown in Guiana. Many who have arrived with this complaint from Europe or the northern parts of America have perfectly recovered, and DR. HANCOCK assures us that during his long practice on the coast of Guiana, he never met with an instance of genuine tubercular phthisis."

The sad prevalence of tuberculosis now experienced in the colony as compared with seventy-five years ago, must, we fear, in common with its presence in the West Indian Islands generally, be largely attributed to improper housing, want of ventilation and overcrowding. Nevertheless, it is satisfactory to learn from the vital statistics of British Guiana, that a very encouraging reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis has taken place both in Georgetown and the country districts of the colony, within recent years. The HON. K. S. WISE, Surgeon-General, was elected President of the British Guiana Society for the current year, and under his able management we may confidently look for the successful continuance of the good work which has been carried on in recent years.

#### WEEK-END TELEGRAMS.

**O**WING no doubt to the public being so pre-occupied with the war, the great boon lately conferred upon the West Indies through the reduction in cable rates has received less recognition

than it deserves. Under the new tariff of charges which came into force on October 1st last messages can now be sent to any part of the British West Indies from the United Kingdom for 2s. 6d. per word, and from Canada for 1s. 6d. per word. To the outsider even these figures may seem high; but they mark a substantial reduction on the charges which prevailed until recently when the rate between this country and Guiana was 7s. and between it and Trinidad 5s. 1½d. per word. Some West Indian firms spend from £500 to £1,000 in cabling in the course of a year, and the saving which they will be able to effect will therefore be appreciable. The saving to Jamaica by the reduction of rates which followed the opening of the Bermuda route by the Direct West India Cable Company—the pioneer of cheap rates—in 1898 was estimated at about £20,000, and in the present case it would be safe to place the saving to the West Indies as a whole at not less than double that amount. But no doubt many of the more enlightened firms will avail themselves of the cheap rates to increase their business efficiency by an extended use of the cables, for time saved is money gained. The "man in the street" is also catered for by the "Deferred Rate" system, which enables him to send messages in plain language to and from the West Indies for 1s. 3d. per word. Though the British West Indian colonies are paying the greater part of the subsidies which have brought about these concessions, we must be grateful also to the Imperial and Canadian Governments, but for whose assistance the reductions could, or perhaps we should say would, not have been made. But much more yet remains to be done, and we see no reason why the privilege of sending "Night" and "Week-end letter" telegrams should not eventually be extended to the West Indies. Night letter telegrams of thirteen words are accepted for delivery in Canada and in the United States at a very low rate on the understanding that they will not be delivered before the day following that on which they are received at the telegraph companies' stations, while week-end letter telegrams of twenty words which must be handed in by Saturday night are accepted for a still smaller fee for delivery on the following Monday. Some idea of the advantages of this system can be gauged from the fact that while the fee for an ordinary message to Mauritius, for example, is 2s. 6d. per word, a week-end telegram of twenty words can be sent to that colony for 12s. 6d., each additional word costing 7½d. only. Knowing as we do that the West Indian cables are not always overwhelmed on Sundays and at night we see no reason why the week-end privileges should not be extended between the West Indies and United Kingdom. Welcome at all times, they would be particularly popular during the tourist season enabling as they would do visitors to the West Indies to communicate cheaply with their friends at home. The matter is one which seems to be well deserving of attention when conditions are again normal.

SERREZ LES RANGS.

By an irony of fate many patriotic associations in this country, while faced with a greater amount of work than usual in consequence of the war are suffering from a diminution of membership from that same cause. Fortunately the West India Committee are less affected than many other bodies in this respect, and with a membership at the 1,500 mark the Executive can view the outlook with complacency. The members continue to hold together in a very gratifying manner, and the resignations have been comparatively few in number. This, we believe, may be attributed in great measure to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and in this connection we may say that we have before us a letter from an ex-Governor of a West Indian colony, who, while forwarding his dues for the current year, wrote that he was retiring from many societies and clubs, but added "I feel in paying this annual subscription that I am going to receive something for my money as I always read the CIRCULAR when it reaches me." We hope that this will be the attitude of most of the members of the West India Committee for ever since the outbreak of war the work of that body has increased to a very great extent in a variety of directions, and the capacity for coping with it effectively must depend very largely upon the support received. In the circumstances we confidently ask our readers to assist by introducing eligible candidates to fill the place of those members who drop out. From correspondence which we have received it would seem that in some quarters an impression prevails that only members of the Executive are entitled to nominate new members. This is not the case; it is open to any member to propose or second candidates. The year has opened auspiciously, 21 new members having already been elected, but the total membership of the Committee still falls far short of the numbers which it should reach.

*Those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so are requested to forward their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st, to the Secretary without delay. The efficiency of the Committee must depend to a great extent upon the punctual payment of their dues by members, and the Honorary Treasurers wish to point out that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR cannot be sent to those in arrears. Subscriptions may be sent either direct or through the Hon. Correspondents.*

**Passports for Members.**

Full particulars regarding Passports—with which passengers to the West Indies are recommended to furnish themselves—can be obtained from the West India Committee, whose Secretary, being a Barrister-at-law, is entitled to, and will be glad to, verify the necessary declarations by members of the Committee.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**East Indian Immigration.**

The following reply to the letter sent by the West India Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of East Indian Immigration, and published in last CIRCULAR (No. 428, p. 75) has been received.

Downing Street,  
25 February, 1915.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant (No. 678) and to request you to inform the West India Committee that he fully recognises the importance of securing a regular supply of labour for the sugar industry in British Guiana and Trinidad so far as the present exceptional circumstances permit.

2. It has been decided, after consulting the Admiralty as to the safety of shipping, to resume recruiting for Fiji in the first instance, but it is expected that it may shortly be possible to recruit for the West Indies also, though the Committee will doubtless recognise that it is not possible to give positive assurances on the subject at the present time.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
H. J. READ,  
The Secretary, West India Committee. for the Under Secretary of State.

Messrs. James Nourse, Ltd., ordering a second copy of the West India Committee Map of the West Indies for their Calcutta Office state that they have found it most useful and informative, and that they have given it a prominent place in their office. Mr. A. Roger Ackerly, of Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, Ltd., writes "We consider the map to be one of the ornaments of our office, and unlike most ornaments, we find it very useful as well as ornamental. Few of us realised the extent of our West Indian possessions until you produced this excellent map."

The reduced price to members of the West India Committee is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 rs. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

During the year to date 21 new members have been elected, residing in the following places:—

Barbados	...	5	Nevis	...	1
British Guiana	...	2	St. Kitts	...	1
Tobago	...	2	London	...	7
Jamaica	...	1	Country	...	2

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### On the Western Front.

On the Western Front there is little to record. The object of both sides, except at certain points, is to hold their ground or recover any that has been lost. What is going to alter this stalemate in the near future it is not easy to see. For the strength of entrenched positions, defended by guns, is one of the surprises of the war. After the Germans swept round from Paris, and were defeated at the Marne, it was confidently predicted that they would soon be hurled back on the Rhine. But they are practically on the same line chosen by themselves in the summer. The cunning each side has developed in the meantime is Red Indian in its character. Guns, for instance, are hidden with such skill that a trained eye may miss them though so close to them as almost to touch them. They are made to look like earth mounds and other natural objects, or are concealed in verdure. Then the new form of fighting brings the combatants close together, so close indeed that in the struggle round La Bassée men fought with their fists. As one soldier wrote home "it was like a football scrimmage, only to the death." But, for the present, neither side gains any considerable advantage.

From the Allies' point of view there is one bright feature at least in the situation. Their artillery is beginning to acquire a decisive mastery over the artillery of the enemy. By its means the British were able to stop a renewal of the savage attacks on La Bassée before the enemy matured his plan. The consciousness of their superiority in such a vital matter must be as cheering to the Allied Armies as it must be depressing to the Germans.

In Alsace the concentration of the enemy has gained him nothing, and, in the Argonne, where fighting is always desperate, he recovers none of his lost ground. Round St. Mihiel, which he has held since the end of September, the French are pushing the offensive, from Les Esparges in the north, and from the forest of Apremont in the south. The line on the map running north and south between these two points and Hattonchâtel indicates a cliff, known as "the heights of the Meuse." Between it and the River Meuse there is a high and broken plateau running parallel with it. The aim of the French is to push along the ridge from Les Esparges and from the forest of Apremont so as to converge at Hattonchâtel, when the German wedge, which was driven into St. Mihiel on the right bank of the Meuse from the northern section of the Woivre plateau, will be cut off.

### On the Eastern Front.

The pendulum, which swung the Germans towards the Niemen, is now swinging the Russians back to the Prussian frontier again. Marshal von Hindenburg's plan seems to have been to act on the defensive in the centre, except for some des-

perate fighting in one section as a feint, and to attempt to turn the Russian flanks. Using the Masurian Lakes as a screen he rapidly concentrated large forces in East Prussia, the admirable German railway system facilitating the move. The Russian 10th Army, taken by surprise, found itself faced by double its numbers, and was obliged to fall back to save its northern wing from envelopment. But even in its retreat it was able to cover the roads to Warsaw, the object of the German offensive. For if a smashing blow is to be dealt to the Allies in France it is essential for the enemy to hold a strategical defensive in the East, the best for his purpose being the river line Niemen, Bobr, Narew, Vistula, and San. This is the third attempt to secure it, and it is succeeding no better than its predecessors. Warned by the disaster which overtook them in the inhospitable country between the River Niemen and the Prussian frontier in the summer, however, the Germans are directing their fiercest attacks on the Russians south of the Masurian Lakes. But here our Allies are fairly well served by their communications. Consequently on their new front, which passes through Kolno and Prasnitz towards Plock they are able yet further to checkmate von Hindenburg's plan. A new battle is developing, in the first round of which the Russians have been victorious by defeating two German army corps at Prasnitz.

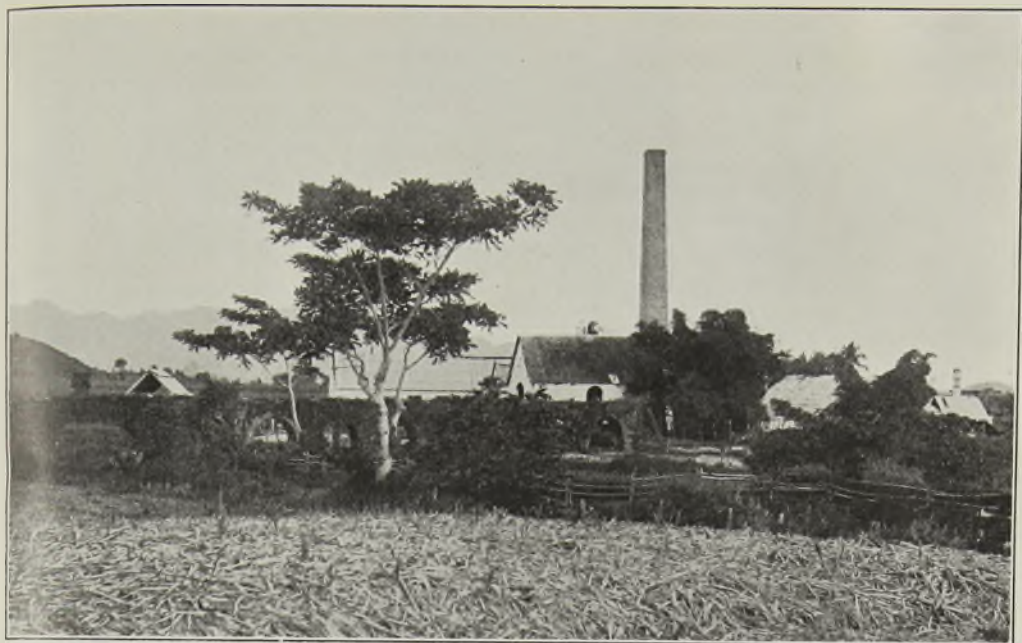
### In the Carpathians.

In the south the enemy was, also, able to concentrate troops by giving out that Serbia was the object of attack. The Russian division (a small one) in the Bukovina has been obliged to retreat, but in such a masterly fashion, that it was neither surrounded nor compelled to enter Roumanian territory. The Austrians hold the passes at this end of the Carpathian front, but are seemingly unable to push their advantage by threatening the Russian communications. Neither can they drive the invader through the Dukla and Uzok Passes, or to force him to loosen his hold on Hungary. All along the snow-bound, forest-clad, precipitous slopes of this considerable mountain range the most terrible fighting on record is proceeding. There is no room here for the big manoeuvres suitable to the plains. Man fights against man, company against company, battalion against battalion as circumstances permit. And everywhere is the snow, so deep in some places that the dead stand up in it.

Perhaps here and in the Dardanelles the second phase of this great war is beginning. Who knows?

### Forcing the Dardanelles.

The most dramatic military operation of the past fortnight has been the organised attack on the Dardanelles by a British squadron with the assistance of a French naval division. It was in these waters that war first demonstrated that England's "wooden walls" could not withstand gun-fire from Russian fortresses. The result was the invention of armour-



SUGAR WORKS ON ONE OF THE BECKFORD ESTATES, JAMAICA. Dr. J. R. Le Touzel.



A VIEW IN THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA.

*of Fort William Castle, north part of Portland Parish, as seen from the River, by the late Mr. J. R. Le Touzel, in 1810.*

FORT WILLIAM ESTATE, JAMAICA.

From an Engraving by Vivares, after George Robertson, at the West India Committee Rooms.

plated ships, which were practically floating forts. Then the gun re-asserted its supremacy and fixed defences had another lease of honourable life. With the advent of the big German howitzer, before which Namur and Antwerp fell within a few days, mobile defences are potent again. That is why the Allied Navies are forcing the Dardanelles without an army. Should they succeed, as they probably will, it will be one of the greatest naval feats of its kind in history.

The two forts that defended the entrance have already been silenced, their guns having been outranged, and, therefore, rendered helpless. But that was an easy task to what lies beyond about 15 miles. Here the straits narrow from three miles in width to a width of little more than one mile, at the same time slightly turning to the left. After another three miles they take a sudden turn to the right. This deviation from their course forms an awkward corner, which is commanded by the guns of Chanak. Whether or not these can be outranged is known only to the Admiralty. In any case the powerful artillery of our warships can soon reduce them. The danger lies in floating mines, with which the straits are sown, the depth of water being too great for many anchored mines. As the Allies have still thirty miles to traverse progress will necessarily be slow, mine-sweeping being a tedious, as well as a risky operation. It should be noted that there is a back door to the Straits in the Gulf of Saros, whence the French ships are bombarding the forts on the north side of the Straits. Once the fleet is in the Sea of Marmora, Constantinople will be at the mercy of the Allies, a silent blow which will be felt in two continents. For here centres the whole of the Balkan and Near Eastern questions, together with the fate of many Principalities and Powers.

One of the immediate objects of the move is, however, the opening of an economic lung, releasing grain and food-stuffs held up in the Black Sea.

#### Germany's Aerial Losses.

Disaster continues to follow the enemy's Zeppelins which were once to secure the command of the air. Two of the latest type, the L3 and L4 have been wrecked, the first near Esbjerg, the second to the north of the Blaabands, on the coast of Denmark in a snowstorm. The captain and crew, who were saved, tried to pass themselves off as the victims of a mine-sweeping disaster. But the Danes, who know their Germans since 1864, were incredulous, and started a search, when the wrecked dirigible was discovered, and at once impounded by the Danish Government. Germany has now lost all the naval airships which she possessed before the war, for L1 disappeared in a tempest on September 9th last, and L2 was destroyed by fire about six weeks later.

From French sources comes the news that the Germans' Allies are saving their aircraft as much as possible. This is not the case at Przemysl, which still holds out, and, in its resistance, aeroplanes play an important part. It is said that not only do

they keep the beleaguered city in touch with Vienna, but that they act as supply ships, of course on a small scale.

#### The "Blockade."

The "blockade" of the British Islands, which began on February 18th, is in being, but things are very much as they were before it started. There is as yet no scarcity of food-stuffs in this country, whereas Germany is now subject to a bread ticket-of-leave system. Several neutral ships have been sunk, including two flying the Norwegian flag, and two the Stars and Stripes. One of them President Wilson says was lost through a tragic accident. Could it, by any chance, have taken the form of a German torpedo? As both the American ships were laden with cotton German blundering again serves the Allied cause.

Meanwhile the United States has made informal proposals to England and Germany with a view to putting the supply of food-stuffs on a satisfactory basis, the idea being that the American Government should control the distribution to the civilian population. But no such proposal is likely to be accepted by this country. What Englishmen want is the resumption by the Navy of its right of capture. Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Asquith have all spoken, but our sea-power is still hampered by "juridical niceties."

#### In South Africa.

The trial of De Wet is adjourned *sine die* to allow two important witnesses to be called. In the meantime the Union Government have issued a Blue-book dealing with the history of the rebellion, and the measures taken to cope with it. The aim of the leaders was nothing less than independence, but that they had no solid ground to work on is evident from the immense fabric of lies they raised to gain a following. At that game, indeed, they beat their German masters easily. But as the whole story of how the unfortunate burghers were duped or forced into commando is pieced together by judicial inquiry one can understand why they are to be treated leniently. It is, also, easy to understand how the rebellion collapsed before the vigour of General Botha, whose task was, nevertheless, a good deal bigger than people in this country have yet realised.

In German South-West Africa military operations have now begun in earnest. Garub, a town about 70 miles east of Luderitz Bay, has been occupied, and though the enemy before evacuating it destroyed the water tanks, he could not destroy their abundant subterranean supply, a fact which makes Garub such a useful acquisition in this desert region.

(To be continued.)

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"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick L. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMINICA.

### A Meeting with the New Administrator.

Mr. A. W. Mahaffy, the new Administrator of Dominica, attended a meeting of gentlemen interested in that island at the West India Committee Rooms on February 25th. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall presided, and those also present were: Mr. A. K. Agar, Mr. Allan Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Messrs. Ecuellas, Ltd., Mr. F. E. Everington, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Charles Mackintosh, Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, Mr. Hugh Rose, Mr. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. F. B. B. Shand, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

Mr. Marshall, welcoming Mr. Mahaffy, said that the new Administrator had filled important positions in another part of the Empire, but had so far never been to the West Indies. He would find in Dominica ample scope for his energies. No one who visited that favoured island could fail to be struck with its beauty and its wonderful resources. But comparatively little had, unfortunately, been done in the direction of developing those resources. Some progress had been made in recent years; but much remained to be done, and the most important matter calling for attention was the development of means of transport by land and sea.

After reviewing the steps taken by the West India Committee to ventilate this question, Mr. Marshall said that he believed that the Colonial Office now appreciated the importance of it, and reminded those present that the Secretary of State had promised that a practical expert should be sent out to the island to investigate the whole subject.

Mr. A. K. Agar agreed that the great need of Dominica was for roads, and he hoped that they would be provided in such a manner as would cause as little dislocation of estates' labour as was possible. He added that the local Government was under a moral obligation to the planters on the Windward Coast to supply them with a coastal steamer.

Mr. Duncan Mackintosh said that when Mr. Mahaffy looked into the question of roads he would find many cross currents at work. The planters had been put off year after year with promises, and the time for definite action had arrived. All were agreed in principle with the scheme for development formulated by Major Burdon. The possibility of the extended use of aerial tramways which were already used on one or two estates, were also worth considering seriously. With judicious administration Dominica might become for its size one of our most prosperous colonies—a miniature Ceylon in fact.

Mr. Francis Everington, who was a member of the Committee of the Legislature on the Coastal Service, referred to the suspension of the service of the *Yare*, for which increasing subsidies had been asked by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. That vessel was unsuitable for the coastal service, being too expensive to run. He believed that what were needed were vessels of the type used round St. Lucia which could be manned by local men. If

motor schooners were adopted they would require very powerful engines to cope with the currents on the Windward coast. Mr. Everington then proceeded to refer to the inadequacy of the local medical service, the island only having four medical officers, of whom two were responsible for the whole of the windward side, the other two being at Portsmouth and Roseau. If the labourers were better looked after in the matter of health, it would make an immense difference to the labour supply.

Mr. Herbert Scrutton remarked that the construction of roads was a simple matter compared with the problem of their future maintenance.

Mr. Hugh Rose expressed the opinion that the quality of the labour in Dominica was deteriorating and he feared that the theft of the growing crops was on the increase.

Mr. Mahaffy, who was greeted with applause, expressed his high appreciation of the courtesy of the proprietors of Dominica, who had been kind enough to meet him. He was not without some experience of the problems which had to be faced in tropical islands with regard to settlements and road-making. It would, of course, be impertinent for him to venture any opinions respecting Dominica with the conditions of which, as with those of the West Indies in general, he was at present quite ignorant. He could only assure them that with their assistance and advice he would endeavour to the best of his ability to bring about the development of the island.

## SUSPENSION OF THE MAIL SERVICE.

### The R.M.S.P. "Trent" Commandeered.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at the end of last week informed the Postmaster General that owing to the Admiralty having commandeered the *Trent* for Government purposes there was no course open to them but to cancel the voyage to the West Indies appointed to commence on the 10th of this month.

So far as the outward service is concerned there is, unfortunately, no alternative sailing which will provide for a quicker delivery of mails in the West Indies than the next Royal Mail despatch on the 25th of March. As the whole round voyage is cancelled there will be no homeward Royal Mail Packet leaving Trinidad on the 5th and Barbados on the 6th of April, but there may perhaps be opportunities for posting in the West Indies by a steamer proceeding to New York and for onward transmission to this country. An opportunity will occur, however, for posting mails for this country for transmission via Canada by the S.S. *Caraquet* at Trinidad on the 5th, and Barbados on the 8th of April. This steamer is due at St. John, N.B., on the 20th of April, and mails so forwarded should arrive in this country about the 29th of April.

## EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

### Striking Testimony as to its Value.

It will be remembered that in 1913, Mr. M. J. McNeill, of the Indian Civil Service, and Mr. Chinman Lal, a well-known business man in the United Provinces and an ex-member of the Khurja municipality, visited Trinidad, British Guiana, Jamaica and Fiji, to investigate on behalf of the Indian Government the conditions of life of the Indian immigrants in those colonies.

Their report, which has now been delivered, bears striking testimony to the advantages of immigration not only to the colonies, but also to the immigrants themselves.

The general conclusions of Mr. McNeill and Mr. Chinman Lal are summarised in the following paragraphs of the report.

"We are convinced that, notwithstanding our possibly disproportionate presentation of the unsatisfactory features of the existing system, a careful study of the facts elicited during our inquiry will result in the conclusion that its advantages have far outweighed its disadvantages. The great majority of emigrants exchanged grinding poverty with practically no hope of betterment for a condition varying from simple but secured comfort to solid prosperity. Emigrants live under very much better conditions than their relatives in India, and have had opportunities of prospering which exceeded their own wildest hopes. They became citizens of the colonies to which they emigrated and both they and their descendants have attained to positions commanding general respect and consideration. Though liable to be prosecuted for disciplinary offences while under indenture they realized also that in everything affecting their daily lives their legal rights were not merely defined but firmly maintained. Employers also were liable to judicial punishment and to still more severe punishment, namely, disqualification for employment in the colony in the only occupation at which they could expect to earn a livelihood. Nor should it be forgotten that both employers who were too prone to invoke judicial assistance in the management of their labourers and employers whose authority was exercised with more skill, temper and self-reliance, have in many ways tempered the exercise of authority with manifestations of kindness and generosity. It is not an uncommon thing for an emigrant who has settled down after the expiry of his indenture at a distance from an employer by whom he has been formerly prosecuted to pay occasional friendly visits to his accuser who has not forfeited his good will. If too many labourers were judicially punished all but the most worthless were gainers in skill, enterprise, and self-respect. The savings or remittances of the industrious represent only the material gain to emigrants. They are as a body probably more conscious of the far-reaching legal protection which they enjoy than of the legal liabilities to which they are exposed. Our proposals

involve the recognition of further rights and the reduction of liabilities, and we venture to claim that their adoption will justify the system being fairly described as one of protected emigration, in which the protection ceases when no longer required. We do not regard the system as solely or mainly concerned with securing fair wages and fair treatment for Indian labourers who are content to emigrate for a few years, save a few hundred rupees, and return to their homes. Following the example of the great majority of the emigrants themselves and their descendants we regard it rather as a system of colonization under which poor but industrious Indians whether landless labourers or the sons of poor cultivating landowners, who are content to be trained and acclimatized under private employers in need of a steady supply of labour, are offered prospects much more favourable than they could hope to realise at home. While an emigrant's freedom of choice between settling down in a colony or demanding repatriation should be maintained, it is obviously necessary to recognise the manner in which the choice has been exercised in the past. If our proposals are accepted we are reasonably confident that those who elect to return will in all colonies be an insignificant minority of those emigrating under indenture. We are conscious that the acceptance of our proposals will increase the cost of indentured Indian labourers to their employers and may in consequence lessen the demand, but it may also have the effect of raising the standard of capacity expected from employees."

The recommendations of the Commission are summarised in the following paragraphs.

"While dealing in detail with each of the matters to which our attention was specially directed we have unavoidably laid more stress on what appeared to be remediable defects in the existing system of emigration than on the advantages which have accrued to emigrants. As we consider that the removal of defects would be the most satisfactory result of our inquiries both for emigrants and for the colonies to which they emigrate we think it desirable to recapitulate briefly the more important general remedies which we have recommended in the preceding paragraphs. They are as follows:—

"I.—Unsuitable emigrants, men or women, should be excluded. The agreements should state clearly how misconduct will be punished. The proportion of female to male emigrants should be raised from 40 to 50 per cent. and the present minimum age limit should be abolished.

"II.—In all colonies, provisions, whether operative or inoperative in practice, which are unduly rigorous or restrictive, should be expunged from the Ordinances. The punishments prescribed should in most cases be reduced and fines imposed should be recoverable in small instalments.

"III.—The intemperate use of the disciplinary provisions of the Ordinance should be prevented by empowering the officers of the Immigration Department in each colony to control employers in this respect.

"IV.—The officers of the Immigration Department in each colony should be empowered to adjudicate in cases brought by employers against labourers so that the concern of Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction with the enforcement of contracts may be minimised if not extinguished.



"V.—Separate places of detention should be provided for labourers who, notwithstanding the revision proposed in II., may be sentenced to imprisonment for breaches of the disciplinary provisions of the Ordinance.

"VI.—Subject to a limitation of the proportion of labourers on an individual estate who may commute their indentures within a single year, the labourer should be entitled at any time to commute his indentures by payment of a graduated redemption fee.

"VII.—Facilities for occupying land on a satisfactorily secure tenure should be provided.

"VIII.—The registration of marriages should be facilitated.

"IX.—The special needs of Indian children in the matter of primary education should receive consideration.

"X.—The regulations affecting the grant of medical relief to the poorer class of Indians not residing on estates should be revised.

"XI.—The annual reports of the Immigration Department of each colony should give more intelligible and precise information regarding the health of indentured immigrants. They should also show not only the average earnings of immigrants but the cost of living and the surplus."

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made some further names are given below.

Beckett, Mrs. Pat, (wife of Captain Pat Beckett, R.G.A., and daughter of Brigadier-General H. B. C. Kitchener), Superintendent of the Military Hospital, Portland, Dorset.

Alexander, Ralph, (son of the late Hon. Douglas Alexander of Grenada).

Atkinson, Surgeon E. L., (born in St. Vincent, B.W.I., son of Mr. E. L. Atkinson, now Manager of the Colonial Bank in Trinidad), Surgeon in H.M.S. *St. Vincent*.

Austin, Rev. P. G., M.A., (of Barbados), Chaplain to the Forces.

Baiza, J. L., M.B., Ch.B., (Edin.), West African Medical Staff, (son of Mr. E. L. Baiza, Member of the House of Assembly, and of Messrs. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd., merchants, Barbados), On Active Service with the troops in the Cameroons.

Bovell, Captain C. W. K., (late Jamaica Militia), Inspector of Police, Uganda Protectorate.

Carter, 2nd Lieut. H. O., (son of Mr. H. O. Carter, of Kingston, Jamaica), 8th Middlesex Regiment.

Chandler, Lieut. William (son of the Hon. Sir W. K. Chandler, J.L.D., of Barbados), Canadian Contingent.

Clarke, Sergeant Damerl, (second son of the late Mr. Benjamin Robinson Clarke, of British Guiana, formerly manager of Bel Air).

Clarke, Corporal Duncan St. George, (son of the late Benjamin Robinson Clarke), Saskatchewan Horse.

Davson, 2nd Lieut. Alan W., (nephew of the late Sir Henry K. Davson), Loyal North Lancashires.

Dougall, Mr. Percy, (son of Mr. G. A. Dougall, of St. Mary, Jamaica), enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Douglas, Major H. E., V.C., D.S.O., (son of the late Mr. George Douglas, Superintendent of the General Penitentiary, Kingston, Jamaica), R.A.M.C., Assistant Director of the Medical Service at Havre.

Drummond, Major W. M., (Jamaica Militia Artillery), attached to Royal Garrison Artillery, Port Royal, Jamaica.

Duncan, Lieut. A. W., Commanding Mounted Section, Grenada Volunteer Force.

Grant, Sergeant Reginald, (son of Mr. A. C. Grant, solicitor, Montego Bay, Jamaica), 11th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

Grell, 2nd Lieut. Neville, (son of the late Mr. V. Ellis Grell, of Trinidad), Prince of Wales' Own, 10th West Yorkshire Regiment.

Giuseppi, Dr. Paul L., M.D., Lond., F.R.C.S., Eng., (of Trinidad), Surgeon to the Cliff Hospital, Felixstowe, under the War Office.

Henderson, Captain E. F. S., (Staff Officer to the Local Forces in the Windward Islands), Leicestershire Regiment.

Henderson, Captain, (Staff Officer in St. Lucia), The Leicestershire Regiment.

Kerr, 2nd Lieut. D. I., Grenada Volunteer Force.

King, 2nd Lieut. B., (Lieutenant in the Jamaica Artillery Militia), Royal Artillery.

Kitchener, Brigadier-General H. B. C., (late Colonel Commanding the West India Regiment. Brother of Lord Kitchener, and owner of Canwall Estate Jamaica), in command of the Expeditionary Army in East Africa.

Knight, 2nd Lieut. A. B., (son of Mr. W. Julian Knight), King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Laborde, Crichton E., (son of Captain M. H. Laborde, R.N., nephew of Hon. E. D. Laborde, I.S.O.), Clerk in H.M.S. *Inflexible*. Was in the Battle of the Falkland Islands.

Laborde, Hugh (son of Captain M. H. Laborde, R.N., nephew of Hon. E. D. Laborde, I.S.O.), H.M.S. *Niobe*.

Laborde, Wilfred, (son of Captain M. H. Laborde, R.N., nephew of Hon. E. D. Laborde, I.S.O.), Assistant Paymaster in H.M.S. *Queen Mary*.

Lawrenson, Major R. R., 2nd West India Regiment, now attached to the 11th Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment, and Staff Officer to Brigadier-General Dalrymple Hay, C.B., D.S.O., late Officer Commanding the troops in Jamaica.

Lewis, J. B., (of Trinidad), Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Long, Major C. W., Commandant of the Interment Camp, Jamaica, 2nd West India Regiment.

Martin, Captain, (Clerk to the Commissioner of Montserrat).

Mason, Lionel Bruce, (youngest son of the late Mr. J. P. Mason, Senior Member of the Barbados House of Assembly), 2nd Canadian Contingent.

Maxwell, Captain B. C. D'Arcy, (Commander Royal Naval Reserve, eldest son of the late Mr. P. Benson Maxwell, Magistrate in British Guiana, and grandson of the late Sir P. Benson Maxwell), The Royal Engineers.

Maxwell, Trooper Lionel George, (son of the late Mr. P. Benson Maxwell, Magistrate in British Guiana, and grandson of the late Sir P. Benson Maxwell), 2nd King Edward's Horse.

McSwiny, 2nd Lieut. Phillip, son of Myles McSwiny, R.N., retired, and grandson of the late William Barton Gibbons, an Estate proprietor in Barbados), Indian Defence Force.

Melhado, 2nd Lieut., (son of Mr. Reginald Melhado, St. Andrews, Jamaica), 11th A.P.W.O., Yorkshire Regiment.

Orrett, 2nd Lieut. W. A., (Sub-Inspector, Jamaica Constabulary), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Parke, Lieut. C., (son of Rev. A. W. Parke), 2nd Battery, 1st Reserve, 4th Wessex Royal Field Artillery (now in India).

Reid, Captain J. M., (Controller of Customs in British Guiana), has been granted a Commission in the Army.

Rhodes, Major W. W., (of St. Thomas, Jamaica).

Riddick, Captain Charles, (late of the British Guiana Constabulary), Commissioner of Police, Uganda Protectorate.

Ritchie, Neil Methuen, (second son of Mr. D. Ritchie, late of Aurora, British Guiana), 3rd Battalion, Black Watch.

Rooney, Major F. M., (son-in-law of Mrs. de Pass, Arcadia, Chapelton, Jamaica), late South Lancashire Regiment, served in A.S.C., Jamaica, now Commandant, Alcar Ranges, Lancashire.

Slinger, Captain D. E. L., Commanding Grenada Volunteer Force.

Vidal, Mr. Cyril, (of Lucea, Jamaica), 2nd Canadian Contingent.

**Wounded.**

Hughes, Lieut. Alan Wylie, (son of Mr. George Hughes). Mr. Hughes' life was providentially saved by a sardine tin in his haversack which deflected a bullet.

**Killed in Action.**

LIEUTENANT HADDY DAY STOKES, M.V.O., of the King's Own Lancaster Regiment, was reported killed in action on February 23rd.

SECOND LIEUT. ALAN MACDOUGAL-RITCHIE, of the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was killed on January 18th.

CAPTAIN STRACHAN, of the Black Watch, who has been killed in action was formerly Staff Officer in St. Lucia, where he enjoyed great popularity.

MR. HENRI AGOSTINI, son of Mr. François Agostini, of Trinidad, has died of typhoid fever, at Breteuil, whilst serving at the front with the Artillery Section of the French Army. Mr. Agostini was present at Mons and the Battle of the Marne at the conclusion of which he was promoted on the field for gallantry. He unfortunately contracted typhoid in the neighbourhood of Arras.

**Alterations and Corrections.**

Cameron, Sub-Lieut. Alistair Gordon (son of Mr. Alistair Cameron of Plm. Sanbury, Barbados), in Submarine C6. Dawson, 1st Lieut. Cyril Were, (nephew of the late Sir H. K. Dawson), Royal Garrison Artillery. *At the Front.* Hatt, Clarence, (son of Mr. G. David Hatt, Tobago), Canadian Contingent.

[Copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, of December 1st, 15th, and 29th, 1914, and January 12th, 26th, February 9th and 23rd, 1915, in which the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh lists, containing 315, 63, 99, 22, 111, 253, and 27 names respectively, were published, are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane.]

**WEST INDIAN GIFTS.**

The steady flow of gifts from the West Indies to the mother country continues. The R.M.S. *Chagres* brought from the Jamaica Agricultural Society 651 cases of oranges and grape-fruit besides 5 packages of banana figs from Mr. J. O. Mason, of Orange Bay, 5 cases of preserves, and 3 cases of ginger sugar, all collected by Mr. John Barclay, the patriotic secretary. Of this consignment 400 cases of fruit, including 25 specially earmarked by Captain Bonitto, have been sent with the preserves and ginger sugar to the Grand Fleet, the balance being devoted to the sick and wounded soldiers, as before. The same steamer brought a further consignment of 37,250 cigars and cheroots, and ten cases of cigarettes for the troops, purchased through the "Give a Cigar Fund" inaugurated by Mr. M. de Cordova in the *Jamaica Daily Gleaner*. These are being sent to the Military Forwarding Officer at the Overseas Base, who has acknowledged the receipt of the first consignment comprising 31,500 cigars and cheroots.

From the Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee 300 cases of oranges and 18 cases of preserves have been received and are being sent to the various hospitals, while 14 cases of limes from the Dominica Agricultural Society have been despatched to the Grand Fleet.

**HOME GROWN BEET SUGAR.**

THE February *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture contains a Report by Mr. C. S. Orwin, M.A., of the Oxford Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics and Mr. J. Orr, M.A., as to the financial results of the beet growing by the Norfolk and Suffolk farmers in connection with the Cantley Sugar Factory in Norfolk.

It appears that the results for the 1914 campaign were as under. The roots were paid for at the rate of 25s. per ton, with railway charges paid by factory.

	Area cultivated Acres	Cost of Production per Acre	Received for Roots per Acre	Profit per Acre	Loss per Acre
<b>NORFOLK.</b>					
Farm A ...	70	£ 8 15 6	£ 10 0 0	£ 1 4 6	---
" D* ...	2	10 15 3	15 3 3	4 8 0	---
" E ...	28	9 4 6	10 14 0	1 9 6	---
" G ...	12½	11 12 4	12 5 0	12 8	---
" H ...	8½	11 2 0	14 17 11	3 15 11	---
Mean ...		10 5 11	12 12 0	2 6 1	---
<b>SUFFOLK.</b>					
Farm J ...	40	10 7 8	6 6 3	---	4 1 5
" K ...	20	9 1 6	8 9 8	---	11 10
" L ...	12	11 16 9	2 18 5	---	8 18 4
" M ...	6	8 10 7	4 17 0	---	3 13 7
" N ...	17	8 2 6	6 12 8	---	1 9 10
Mean ...		9 11 10	5 16 10	---	3 15 0

Exceptionally well situated as regards carriage of roots and labour supply.

The growing season, which suited the Norfolk lands, was too dry for those of Suffolk.

Messrs. Orwin and Orr consider that "So far therefore as the immediate future is concerned, there is the prospect of farmers being able to start the industry on a sound and remunerative basis. The scarcity of sugar arising from the war will, however, probably cease in a few years, and with the increase in supply the price of beet will fall. It is necessary to keep such a contingency in view, and to consider its possible effect on the position of farmers who may have devoted a part of their rotation to beet growing. This will be referred to among more general considerations later, but it may be affirmed that during three or four years of high prices farmers would gain an experience which should enable them to reduce the cost of growing and to secure a somewhat heavier and steadier yield. After that time they will simply be in the position in which they are to-day as producers of corn, wool and other commodities, in competition with other countries, and there seems to be no reason why they should not hold their own in this department as they do in others."

As regards the chief economic features of beet growing from a farmer's point of view, the authors state that "The market for sugar in the United Kingdom is increasing; it is comparable with the market for flour, and in this respect, therefore,

beet is comparable with wheat. The growers of wheat are subject to competition with foreign growers, and so will the growers of beet be, but there is no more reason for apprehension in the one case than in the other. Owing to the absence of factories for turning beet into sugar the passage between the beet-grower in England and the sugar consumer is practically closed, but this difficulty is not insuperable. The market or demand basis of the industry being so sound, and the present circumstances being so favourable, there is a unique opportunity for providing factories to enable the supply to meet the demand."

## ANKYLOSTOMIASIS.

### A Lecture on Hook-worm Disease.

*Through the courtesy of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago we are able to publish a lecture recently delivered before that body by Colonel J. R. Dodd, on Ankylostomiasis, or Hook-worm Disease, a malady which, unfortunately, is very prevalent in British Guiana and parts of the West Indies. Colonel Dodd, it should be mentioned, is a Commissioner on the International Health Commission, initiated and financed by Mr. Rockefeller, the American millionaire.*

Ankylostomiasis is a disease which is extremely prevalent in all the warmer parts of the world, and while at times the presence of the parasites give rise to little or no trouble, generally they cause great anæmia with the usual concomitants, lassitude, palpitation, indigestion, dropsy, and inability to work. Though the disease has existed for thousands of years in Egypt, as evidenced by a papyrus recently discovered (and it has long been known as Egyptian Chlorosis), the actual worm causing the symptoms was only discovered in 1838. In the brick fields of Egypt at the present day this disease is very prevalent among the workmen, and probably the Israelites in captivity suffered from it. I shall again refer to Moses' teaching of sanitation.

While the presence of these worms was long suspected to be the cause of the anæmia in Egypt and Brazil, the complete pathology of the disease was not thoroughly understood until the outbreak among the workmen in the St. Gothard Tunnel in 1880. In 1902 Styles proved that the worm prevalent in the new world, which he called the *Necator Americanus* is different in many respects to the old world variety, the *Ankylostoma Duodenale*. Of late years the enquiries instituted by the Rockefeller International Health Commission have proved that this is probably the most widespread disease in the world, and with the possible exception of malaria causes more misery, invalidism, and industrial inefficiency than any other disease. It is also responsible for stunting of intellect and growth, and for much crime, in that the sufferers being unable to earn their own living steal food and thus begin a criminal career. In

Northern Europe the disease cannot exist long in the open on account of the cold winters but outbreaks has occurred in mines and tunnels where a suitable temperature always prevails. Fortunately such outbreaks are easily controlled by suitable measures, and in recent great tunnelling operations, notably the Simplon, they have been absolutely prevented.

The disease then being prevalent in most parts of Africa and Asia and in many parts of Australia, North and South America, Europe, and especially severe in the West Indies; its eradication is of world-wide importance. In the West Indies we find both the old and new world forms of the parasites, the former imported by East Indians and Chinese immigrants, and the latter probably by African slaves. The new world variety, *Necator Americanus* is the more common. It has been proved to exist in the pigmies from Central Africa, also in the gorilla, but it is also prevalent in Ceylon and Malaya, so that the distinction of the varieties as to distribution, is ill-marked. This is, however, not a matter of great practical importance, seeing that both varieties produce the same symptoms, and are susceptible to the same cure. Therefore, the slight morphological differences between them need not trouble us. Our observations here have so far extended to the examination of about 4,500 cases, of whom about half have been found to harbour the worms. I believe that about half of the rural creole population have the disease and two-thirds of the East Indians. A large number of whites working or following sport in the country also have been found to be infected, through going about in defective boots.

### Early Theories as to its Origin.

Before the discovery of the worms, the disease to which they gave rise was entirely misunderstood. The great observer, John Hunter, considered it mental, *i.e.*, more or less a disease of the imagination. Negro slaves were supposed to die from home sickness, and in America it was called the "lazy disease," a most unjust reflection on the poor sufferers, who not only endure great pain and discomfort, but also privation from inability to work for their living. Indeed, not only do the hosts of the parasites suffer, but their employers also, in that after all their trouble and expense in procuring labour, the workmen are frequently totally or, to a great extent incapacitated, and spend a great part of their time in hospital instead of at work, not to mention the losses from death. In Porto Rico it is estimated that 30 per cent of the total deaths in the island are due to his disease, and in that island more than half of the total population suffer from the disease, and one-third have actually been treated for it within the past five years, with enormous success. And 400,000 have been treated in the Southern States of America in the last three years. It is estimated that from 60 to 90 per cent. of the entire population of the tropics are infected; and in Egypt,

Ceylon, and St. Lucia, absolutely the whole of the agricultural population. In Porto Rico it was found that the working efficiency of sufferers, as expressed in coffee picking capacity, is lessened anything from half to total. As above stated the actual mortality is very considerable and the presence of the worms is a most dangerous complication of all other diseases which may be acquired. I need not, therefore, enlarge further on the importance of this question.

**The Cure and Preventive Measures.**

The cure is simple and preventive measures also are cheap and simple. Thus it is possible to restore vast numbers of chronic invalids to health; to an active happy, and self-supporting existence; employers are relieved from loss and inconvenience, and the general sanitary condition of the country is vastly improved. These results are what the International Health Commission try to effect, and I now proceed to tell you how we hope to achieve them. We follow to a great extent the plan of operations followed in Porto Rico, an island, I take it, in many respects similar to Trinidad; and there the results have been most encouraging. The management of this disease, like most others, resolves itself into prevention and cure. To take the last first, seeing that every sufferer who passes the eggs of the worm in his stool is a potential centre from which the disease spreads, cure is in fact the most important preventive measure. But to understand the question properly, it is first necessary that the life history of the parasite should be known.

*(To be continued.)*

**BANANAS IN THE TONGAN ISLANDS.**

During the year 1913-14 8,000 plants of the *Gros Michel*, or Jamaica variety of banana were introduced into the Tongan Islands from Fiji, and established at the Agricultural Station at Vaikeli. The experiment promises well, the trees being of vigorous growth. Shoots from the parent stock have been available for distribution for some time past, and are gradually finding their way to the plantations.

Considerable activity continues to take place in Mauritius in the direction of the further improvement of the machinery of the sugar factories. Ten new boilers were installed in the furnaces of the factories in 1913, economizers were increased by two and two "secheries" or bagasse driers were dispensed with. Defecators have been increased by 44 and settling tanks reduced by 31. In the crystallizing sections of the factories large improvements have been made. Nine additional vacuum pans have been erected, and 103 new crystallizers-in-motion installed. Thirty-five centrifugals of the Weston type were installed during the year, and further economies in labour resulted thereby.

Fibre is, after sugar, the most important agricul-

tural industry of the Colony. The fibre is obtained almost entirely from forms of *Furcraca Gigantea* which are now to be found growing in practically all the districts of the island. The area under aloes is estimated at 20,000 arpents (1 arpent equals 1.043 acre). In 1913 there were 42 factories in operation. They are small ones, their individual output ranging from 50 to 100 tons a year. The exports of aloe fibre in 1913 were 2912.7 metric tons, valued at 853,575 rupees.

**PRICES CURRENT NOW AND IN 1815.**

We are indebted to Messrs. Paines and Read, the well-known Mincing Lane brokers, for volumes of the "London Mercantile Price-Current" for the years 1815, 1844, 1855, and 1858. This trade report was published by Price and Co., of No. 3, Freeman's Court, Cornhill, at 17s. 6d. per quarter. It is noteworthy that in each issue "West-Indian and Spanish Main Produce" holds pride of place. It will be of interest to compare some of the quotations of 100 years ago with those now prevailing.

	Feb. 28, 1815.		Feb. 28, 1915.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Annatto Flag per lb. (in Bd.)	1 6	1 8	3	4
Cocoa per cwt in Bond.				
W. India common	80	90	74	78
Trinidad	190	200	73	84
Coffee per cwt				
Jamaica, Triage	58	66		
ordinary,				
good ord.	76	84	50	6 11 8
fine ord.				
mid. to fine mid.	88	110		
fine,				
Colton per lb				
common West India	1 8	1 11		
Barbadoes	1 10	1 11		
Berbice	1 11	2 14		
Demerary	s. d.	s. d.		
Arrowroot per lb.	0 9	3 0	17	42
Tamarinds per cwt.	10	10 10	11	16
Ginger per cwt.	s.	s.		
Jamaica white	200	250	50	60
Lignum Vitæ per ton	9	12		
Logwood per ton	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jamaica	14		4 10 0	5 5 0
Honduras	14 10		6 7 6	10 0 0
Lime Juice per gallon	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mahogany per foot	5 6		2 2	2 9
Honduras	16	18	5½	7
Pimento B. P. per lb. in Bd	12½	13½	2½	2½
Rum per gallon in Bond				
Jamaica				
low over pr. 7, 8, 9, & 10	4 0	4 3		
5 and 6	4 6	4 8	3	7
stronger	4 9	6 0		
Leeward Is. proofs & over	3 5	3 9		
20th under	3 3			
Antigua old	9			
Sugar, Br. Pl. Musco. per cwt				
Jamaica fine	92	98	13	18
mid.				
good brown,	82	90		
ord. ditto,				

## HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS.

We have pleasure in announcing that the series of articles by Mr. Frank Cundall which have been appearing under the above heading since 1909 will shortly be published by the West India Committee for the Institute of Jamaica in book form.

### Fort William, Jamaica.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

For Beckford Town, now little more than a name, in Jamaica, the land was given by Richard Beckford, one of the family of that name, which numbered in it some of Jamaica's most wealthy planters.

Under date January 5, 1660-61, Pepys wrote: "The great Tom Fuller come to me to desire a kindness for a friend of his who hath a mind to go to Jamaica with these two ships that are going, which I promised to do." The friend, Peter Beckford, quitted England in search of adventures, and settled in Jamaica; where he rose to considerable wealth as a planter. He did not, as Bridges suggests, fly from Cromwell's tyranny, for the Restoration had taken place before he left England. In 1663 the name of Beckford appears amongst the planters of St.-Thomas-in-the-Vale. Colonel Peter Beckford, a son of the immigrant, was elected member of the Assembly under Lord Carlisle, who must have been—if we are to believe Nichols in his "Herald and Genealogist" and Burke in his "History of the Commons"—a man of somewhat humble estate in spite of his high ancestry, for they tell us that Sir Thomas Beckford, Sheriff of London, and Colonel Peter Beckford, Governor of Jamaica, were brothers—both sons of a tailor of Maidenhead. Lord Braybrooke, in his notes to Pepys' Diary, says that Sir Thomas and Colonel Peter were uncle and nephew, the former being a son of the tailor. Colonel Beckford was elected member for St. Catherine in the Assembly which met on April 26, 1675. He afterwards served in several Assemblies for the parishes of St. James, Clarendon and St. Dorothy. He was then called to the Council and became its President. On the death of the Governor, Major-General Selwyn, on April 5, 1702, when the Legislature was sitting, Colonel Beckford, who had a dormant commission of old date caused himself to be proclaimed Lieutenant-Governor. In his speech to the Assembly, he said, "I have gone through most of the offices of this Island, though with no great applause, yet without complaint." His personal wealth, said to have amounted to £478,000, and his real estate to as much more, gained for him great influence with the planters. This wealth was inherited by his son Peter, the Speaker of the Assembly above mentioned. His second son, Thomas, married "en secondes nocces" Mary Ballard (apparently a cousin) and had three sons; the eldest, Ballard Beckford, who married a daughter of John Clark, Governor of New York, was expelled from the House "during the continuance of this Assembly" in 1739, for adultery with

the wife of another member, Manning, the member for Kingston. At his death his estate was in debt, and an Act was passed to enable certain properties to be sold. The second, Thomas, married a daughter of Robert Byndloss, the brother-in-law of Sir Henry Morgan, of buccaneering fame, and their daughter and sole heiress married firstly John Palmer, and secondly Edward Long, the historian. Thomas Beckford himself, who sat in the Assembly for St. Catherine, and was elected Speaker in 1727 and 1728, died in 1731, "slain, it is believed, in an encounter with one Cargill," probably Captain Richard Cargill, member for Vere.

Peter Beckford, the Speaker, married Bathshua, daughter and co-heiress of Colonel Julines Herring, of Jamaica. He was elected member of Assembly for Port Royal in 1704, and in the next Assembly of 1705 was chosen for three parishes, St. James, Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth, but elected to sit for the last named. He continued to serve as a member in every Assembly of the island until his death—in the early part of the time generally for St. Elizabeth, in the later for St. Catherine. As



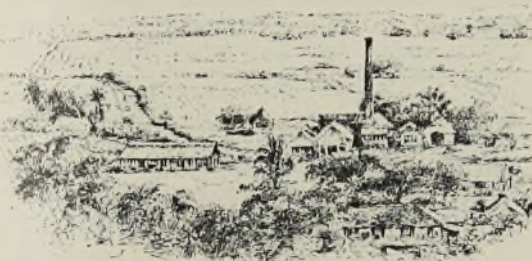
Fort William Aqueduct.

member for the former parish he was five times chosen Speaker—in 1707, 1708-9, 1711, 1713, 1716. At this period he applied to be Deputy Secretary of the Island, under a deputation from William Congreve, but the Governor (Lord Archibald Hamilton) refused to accept him on the ground that he was "the chief actor in all the unhappy differences in the country." He was Comptroller of her Majesty's Customs. He died in 1735, aged 61. From the votes of the Assembly we learn that he bequeathed the sum of £1,000 to the poor of the parish of St. Catherine. This sum was used in the formation of a school; it is now merged with the Smith bequest in the Beckford and Smith School at Spanish Town. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December 1735 he is said to have left nearly £300,000. Besides mortgages and similar investments, he had no less than twenty-four plantations and twelve hundred slaves of his own in the island.

He had thirteen children. The eldest, Peter, was member of the Assembly for Westmoreland in 1728, while his father was sitting for St. Catherine, and his uncle for Port Royal. He died unmarried in 1737, aged 31. On his death his fortune went to

his brother William, afterwards Lord Mayor of London, whose son was the celebrated William Beckford, of "Vattek" and Fonthill fame.

A younger brother of the Lord Mayor, Richard Beckford, who was M.P. for Bristol, had a natural son, William Beckford, who visited his father's Jamaica estates. His mother was Elizabeth Hay. He married his cousin Charlotte Hay, daughter of Thomas Hay, formerly Island Secretary of Jamaica; and he impaled with his father's arms (those of the Hays—on a field argent, three escutcheons gules: but in preference, to the bend sinister, the usual mark of illegitimacy, he added the less-known badge the fimbria or border. Richard Beckford by his will trusted to the justice of his brother Julines: but in preference, to the bend sinister, the usual mark of illegitimacy, he added the less-known badge the fimbria or border. Richard Beckford by his will trusted to the justice of his brother Julines to convey—to trustees in trust for his reputed son William—Roaring River and such other estates in Jamaica as had come into Julines' possession by virtue of an agreement between them, and accordingly he bequeathed these properties to his reputed son William, who, on his coming of age, executed a deed in 1765, which was registered at Spanish Town in 1766, a deed to bar the entail in favour of another, who, however, subsequently re-conveyed it to him. He is therein described as "of Balls, in



Fort William Estate.

the County of Hartford (*sic*), Esq." In a later deed, recorded in 1773, he is described as late of Balls, but now of Summerley (*sic*) Hall.

One of his earliest works was "Remarks on the Situation of Negroes in Jamaica," 1788; and he published in 1794 a "History of France from the most early records to the death of Louis XVI," the early part of which is by Beckford, and the more modern by an anonymous Englishman who had been some time resident in Paris. But the work by which he is best known is "A Descriptive Account of the Island of Jamaica; with remarks upon the cultivation of the Sugar-cane, throughout the different seasons of the year, and chiefly considered in a picturesque point of view; also observations and reflections upon what would probably be the consequences of an abolition of the slave-trade and of the emancipation of the Slaves," published in two volumes in London in 1790. The title fully describes the contents. It is a work of no considerable merit, and displaying none of the genius which might have been expected of a near relative of the author of "Vattek." From the dedication we learn that the

author enjoyed the friendship of the Duke of Dorset, to whom it is addressed, and from the preface that the work was written in the Fleet Prison—a strange residence for one who would claim kinship with the owner of Fonthill. His position was, he says, the consequence of "imprudences which I might have prevented, and of misfortunes which I could not foresee"—a subject which is constantly referred to throughout the book. Besides suffering from the great hurricane of 1780, he was evidently deceived by some friend for whom he had become security.

He intended to illustrate his work with engravings from "some particular views of the Island that were taken on the spot" by George Robertson, but pecuniary reasons obliged him to desist. He devotes several pages to the praises of this artist's work, comparing him—with an enthusiasm which does more credit to his kindness of heart than to his faculties as an art critic—to Claude Lorrain, Gaspard Poussin and Salvator Rosa, and he concludes: "It is a pity that more of his drawings are not engraved; of the numerous and interesting views he took in Jamaica, only six have met the public eye, although there are many that richly deserve to be removed from dust and oblivion. The names of Robertson and Earlow, to the same plate, could not fail to render them immortal."

In 1778 John Boydell published a series of six engravings from paintings by George Robertson, Thomas Vivares, James Mason, and David Lepiniere. They are all dedicated to William Beckford, Esq. They represent: (i) Part of the Rio Cobre, near Spanish Town; (ii) Roaring River Estate; (iii) Fort William Estate, with part of Roaring River belonging to William Beckford, Esq., near Savanna-la-Mar; (iv) Bridge crossing Cabarita River; (v) The Spring Head of Roaring River on the Estate of William Beckford, Esq.; (vi) The Bridge crossing the Rio Cobre, near Spanish Town.

Two of the original paintings are in the possession of Mrs. C. E. de Mercado, of Kingston.

As, with the exception of Hakewill and John Bartholomew Kidd, R.S.A., George Robertson is the only artist of any importance who has devoted his pencil to portraying the beauties of Jamaica, a few notes about him may prove of interest. The facts recorded about him by Redgrave are somewhat scanty. Born in London, he was the son of a wine merchant, and was brought up to that business. He studied in Shipley's school, and in 1761 he gained a Society of Arts premium for his drawings of horses. This brought him to the notice of William Beckford, with whom he travelled in Italy, and studied, chiefly at Rome, during several years. He returned to London about 1770, and although Beckford tried to push his fortunes for him, he was not very successful, and he was induced to accompany his patron to Jamaica. He painted views in the island, and, returning to England, exhibited pictures of Jamaica scenes, twenty-six in all, with the Incorporated Society of Artists (of which body he was for some time vice-president), from 1775 to 1778.

Most of them appeared as "A View in Jamaica." The names given are Roaring River, Fort William and Williamsfield. These views were admired, and when engraved created some interest; but he received no better encouragement than before, and he had to have recourse to teaching and making drawings for the dealers, to support his wife and children, till a bequest from an uncle happily relieved him from anxiety. Never of robust health, a fall from a horse increased his infirmity. He died in 1788, before he reached his fortieth year. He occasionally painted subject pieces, aiming at the "grand style," and his "St. Martin dividing his cloak" is in Vintner's Hall, London. But his principal talents lay in the direction of landscape. "His compositions," Redgrave says, "were too scenic, his trees, though spirited, were fanciful and exuberant in their forms, yet his works are by no means without merit."

William Beckford also employed in Jamaica the talents of Philip Wickstead, a portrait painter, a pupil of Zoffany, and distinguished by his small whole-length portraits, whose acquaintance he had made in Rome in 1773. He accompanied his patron to Jamaica, and practised his art for a considerable time in the island. He speculated as a planter, but was unsuccessful. Losses led to drink, and his life was thereby shortened. He died before 1790. Beckford said of him, his "powers of painting were considerably weakened by his natural indolence, and more than all, by a wonderful eccentricity of character. His colouring was almost equal to that of any artist of his time, and the freedom and execution of his pencil were particularly apparent in his representation of negroes of every character, expression and age." Unfortunately many of Wickstead's drawings perished in the hurricane of 1780.

In biographical dictionaries William Beckford is styled an historian, and, as we have seen, he wrote part of a History of France, but in his work on Jamaica he was content to reprint his historical facts from the *Jamaica Almanack* of the day, and apparently he did not know the year of the discovery of the island by Columbus, for he twice gives a wrong date, and his date for the Port Royal earthquake is also wrong. Much may be excused, however, in an historian, who wrote in the Fleet prison.

One trait he had in common with his kinsman and namesake—a true love of nature and the picturesque. But his description of the natural beauties of the island is couched in the somewhat high-flown style of the eighteenth century.

The following is part of his description of the great hurricane which destroyed Savanna-la-Mar in 1780:—

At Savanna-la-Mar, there was not even a vestige of a town (the parts only of two or three houses having in partial ruin remained, as if to indicate the situation and extent of the calamity); the very materials of which it had been composed had been carried away by the resistless fury of the waves, which finally completed what the wind began. A very great proportion of the poor inhabitants were crushed

to death or drowned; and in one house alone, it was computed that forty, out of one and forty souls, unhappily and prematurely perished. The sea drove with progressive violence for more than a mile into the country; and carried terror, as it left destruction, wherever it passed. Two large ships and a schooner were at anchor in the bay, but were driven a considerable distance from the shore, and totally wrecked among the mango-trees upon land.

He concludes his description thus:—

Having resided for some time in that delightful country, from which the most celebrated painters of landscape have made their principal studies; and having always travelled with those who loved, or were professors of the Art; and having accompanied the latter in all their walks, and followed their imitations upon the easel, it is not unnatural to suppose that I should catch, as it were by reflection, a small portion of their curiosity, and endeavour to follow, at a distance, those rays which have warmed, although they have not been able to illuminate. As one, therefore, who has observed Nature with more enthusiasm than taste, I must decide in favour of the rich and magnificent scenery of the West Indies, in preference to any rural appearances I have observed in other countries; and I should dwell with more pertinacity upon this opinion, were they, by contrast, more observed and better known.

William Beckford was born in Jamaica in 1744. In 1767 or 1768 he went abroad with "two others" (William Fullerton and Glover) under the travelling preceptorship of Patrick Brydone, traveller and author, and made a somewhat extensive tour. Fullerton, after a most successful career in India, became known, from his conduct of the first commissionership of the Government of Trinidad, as "the persecutor of Picton." Beckford spent nearly thirteen years (between 1773 and 1788) in Jamaica, on his estates, Fort William and Roaring River, near Savanna-la-Mar, now the property of Miss G. C. Hay. Of the works at Roaring River almost all that remain are two stones, one of which bears the date 1737, and the other the Beckford crest, a heron's head with a fish in its beak, with the date 1778. On page 392 of his work he says, "When I left Jamaica in the year 1777." This is an evident misprint for 1788 or 1789. He also owned Williamsfield, and is said to have owned the following properties, also in Westmoreland: The Crawl, Hertford Pen, Hatfield Pen and Smithfield Wharf. During all these years he apparently never visited the north side of the island. He is mentioned in the Jamaica Almanacs from 1782 to 1788 (after which date his name disappears) as a magistrate for Westmoreland. Much as he admired its scenery, the Island of Jamaica evidently had for him unpleasant memories. He alludes to it as "that spot upon which it was my unhappy fortune for so many years of my life to reside." The only records of his sojourn in Jamaica are Beckford Street at Savannah-la-Mar, and Beckford Lodge, a small holding near that town, and the mark <sup>R</sup>WB which is still used for the rum exported from Roaring River. On his return voyage to England he passed the Cayman Islands, landing at Cayman. In 1788 he published his "Remarks on the Situation of Negroes in Jamaica." He retired to his estate at Somerly in Suffolk, which he had evidently owned as early as 1773. He then spent,

as we have seen, some time, about 1790-91 in the Fleet prison.

He died on February 4, 1799, of an apoplectic fit at the Earl of Effingham's in Wimpole Street, London. His pecuniary losses had probably led him to sell his property in Suffolk, for he is described as "late of Somerly Hall." The Earl of Effingham mentioned is Richard, the fourth Earl, nephew to Thomas, second earl, who had married a sister of Lord Mayor Beckford in 1744, and brother to the third earl, who died while Governor of Jamaica. Beckford evidently selected his friends from those accomplished in literature and the arts. In his writings he refers to Sir William Hamilton, who was a friend of the author of "Vathek," to Brydone, to "my friend Parsous," the musician, to Charles Burney, nephew of Dr. Burney, and Robertson and Wickstead, the artists; and Dr. Burney has told us that he was the friend of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir Joseph Banks.

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## LOOKING BACK.

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### VII.—The Protection of British Rum.

In 1806 the question of the increasing consumption of brandy in this country, with a corresponding diminution in the consumption of rum, attracted the earnest attention of the West India Committee. Rum already enjoyed preferential treatment in the home market, but this was not considered sufficient to meet the case. On the 25th of March, 1806, a meeting of the Committee was held and the following resolutions passed.

Resolved,

That it is the wish and hope of this Committee, that a distinctive preference of 1s. per gallon, made in contracts for the public service in favour of the article of rum, the produce of the British colonies, over brandy and other spirits of foreign growth and manufacture, may answer the intended purpose of protecting and preferring rum, while its price shall be fair and moderate; at the same time that it is manifest to this Committee, that 1s. per gallon is less than the direct advantage which the public receives, in the consumption of rum, in preference to brandy, independently of any reference to the interests or profits of the planter; and this Committee therefore relies that the wise and provident considerations, which have on this occasion guided his Majesty's Ministers, will induce them to give effect to the principle, altho' the distinction, in the first instance admitted, should be found in future inadequate.

Resolved,

That this Committee, observing that of late years the internal consumption of rum in this kingdom appears to have decreased, while that of foreign brandy has, under all its additional duties, been increasing, submits to His Majesty's Ministers

whether a return to the old established comparative duties, which would increase the proportion of those on brandy and lessen that of those on rum, would not be a measure wise in respect to colonial policy, and productive also of a considerable increase of revenue lightly felt and easily collected.

The matter was not dealt with by the Government until the following year, when at a meeting of the West India Committee, held on the 7th of January, 1807, Mr. Robley then reported that

"The President of the Board of Trade further declared, that it was proposed to impose a further duty upon foreign brandy, which it appeared, by the papers before them, would be effectual, and which was intended to act as an inducement to promote an increased consumption of British plantation rum. [That further duty was mentioned to be about 2s. per gallon.]"

### Rum for the Army and Navy in 1805.

In this connection the remarks which Sir George Young makes in his "West Indian Compendium Book" are especially interesting, in view of the increasing consumption of rum which is now taking place in this country. He says:—

"The distaste of the mass of the English people comes from disuse; and disuse principally from the preference hitherto given to foreign brandies for the supply of the Army and Navy. In 1805 the British Admiralty, by contract, purchased 625,100 gallons of brandy, and only 250,000 gallons of rum.

"If, in national policy, as well as in justice to its colonial and mercantile interests, the British Government would exclusively purchase rum for the supply of the soldiers and sailors, then, with the habits and growing taste of so numerous a class, the liking and use would spread to every village and house; the import of rum to Great Britain would proportionally and yearly increase; the return per export of British produce and manufactures to the West Indies, would in a great measure supersede the necessities of intercourse and trade between America and the islands; and also put a stop to the national disputes arising in consequence; and in every view of national interest, the mother country would be amply repaid for the protection and preference given in the sale of his article of colonial commerce."

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MR. FRANCIS BELL GRIFFITH, whose death occurred recently in Barbados, entered the local Government service in 1873 as Inspector of Inland Revenue, and in 1879 he was appointed Treasurer of the island of St. Vincent, where he served for 17 years. Another former West Indian official who has just passed away, is Mr. W. G. Ridings, Assistant Surgeon in the Jamaica Hospital from 1859 to 1862. Mr. Ridings, who was 81 years of age, died as the result of injuries resulting from a fall,



## COLONIAL REPORT.

### The Trade of British Honduras.

Sir Wilfred Collet in his report on the Blue-book of British Honduras for 1913, which though forwarded to the Colonial Office in November last, has only just been published, states that the labour difficulty is still paramount; owing to the high wages paid in the mahogany industry it is almost impossible to obtain labour at reasonable prices for agricultural work. Negotiations with the Government of Barbados for the introduction of labour from that Colony have been so far without result.

The trade of the colony for the year amounted to \$6,311,593, as compared with \$6,353,051 in 1912. The difference was due largely to the reduction in mahogany importations from Guatemala and Mexico, which fell off to the extent of \$649,493. On the other hand, imports from the United Kingdom and United States show a considerable increase in value. There is no evidence of British goods being superseded in any way by foreign goods. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of some \$35,000 in value.

The export of bananas showed a gratifying increase of 147,498 bunches, due largely to increased transport facilities on the Stann Creek Railway. Plantains show a decrease of some 47,000 in number. It is interesting to note that 938 barrels of grapefruit were exported in the year to the United States and eight barrels of oranges. The United States receives six times more of the exports than any other country, the United Kingdom coming next. The exportation of logwood has decreased considerably in recent years, and the demand for this product was very limited in 1913, owing to the continued substitution of aniline dyes manufactured in Germany, so that it was not worth while to cut on a large scale.

Regarding Cohune nuts, Sir Wilfred pays the CIRCULAR the compliment of quoting its remarks as to the latest developments. It will be recalled that on October 20th, 1914, the CIRCULAR alluded with satisfaction to the fact that progress was being made upon the right lines: by at least one corporation who had taken up a large area of land on which there were Cohune palms in considerable quantity and had cleared the land for banana cultivation, but instead of making a wholesale clearance had only thinned out the Cohune palms. By doing this, and by clearing the ground round them with the object of affording them light and air, they were hopeful that the palms might bear properly.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the past five years :-

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	*Imports.	*Exports.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1908-09	360,915	535,979	2,704,248	2,208,023
1909-10	395,855	592,120	2,819,217	2,344,380
1910-11	459,295	542,810	2,886,677	2,685,849
1911-12	1,201,908	532,123	3,496,908	2,856,143
1912-13	575,243	611,131	3,185,368	3,126,225

\* Calendar years 1909-1913.

## THE COLONIAL BANK.

### To Start Operations in Canada.

A Bill is to be introduced into the Canadian Legislature at Ottawa this session for the incorporation of the Colonial Bank in Canada.

From the account of this institution which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of April 22nd, 1913, it will be recalled that it was incorporated in 1836, "for the purpose of carrying on the business of a banker in Jamaica and the other West Indian Islands and British Guiana and not elsewhere," and began operations in 1837. It will, therefore, be necessary also to secure an amendment of the Charter before operations in Canada are started. This is unlikely to present any difficulty though some little time must necessarily elapse before the new plan of campaign is commenced.

The present important step is no doubt the outcome of closer trade relations between the British West Indies and the Dominion resulting from the trade agreement which came into force in 1913. It will be remembered that in the same year negotiations which had been proceeding for the purchase of the bank's business by the Royal Bank of Canada were broken off by mutual consent, differences having arisen which made it impossible. It is, perhaps, not without significance that Sir Max Aitken, a well-known Canadian financier should have been elected to the Board of Directors last year. It is understood that the Canadian headquarters of the bank will be situated in Halifax, which is the chief centre of West Indian trade in the Dominion, and it is not improbable that the operations of the Bank will be extended to Cuba.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### The Sugar Convention.

In the House of Lords on March 3rd, the Earl of Denbigh asked whether the Government would take into consideration the advisability of giving notice to withdraw from the Brussels Sugar Convention, so that we might have a free hand when the sugar question became a practical one. Lord Islington said that the question raised an important point of policy, and he asked for notice.

[Great Britain is no longer a party to the Sugar Convention; but in 1912 His Majesty's Government pledged themselves to adhere to "the fundamental principles of the agreement" and not to depart from this policy without giving six months' notice to the signatories.]

### British Guiana Affairs.

In the House of Commons on March 1st, Mr. Anderson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware that there were only two King's Counsels in British Guiana, one being the Attorney General, whether he would consider the advisability of appointing a barrister member of the "subject race," and whether he would consider the claims of Mr. P. N. Browne in this connection. Mr. Harcourt replied in the affirmative to the first part of the question, and said he would enquire of the Governor whether he recommended the appointment of an additional King's Counsel.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE REV. J. H. CARTWRIGHT has been nominated by the Foreign Missionary Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society the representative of the Society in the West Indies.

CACAO has in recent years been exported in increasing quantities from Togoland, which we captured from Germany in the early days of the war. In 1913 the exports rose to 334,004 kilos from 282,082 kilos in the preceding year.

AMONG the imports into Great Britain from the West Indies in 1804-5 were 45 "elephant's teeth" valued at £1,350. We were aware that there were canals in Barbados at one time, and this entry places the existence of elephants beyond a doubt.

It was on a voyage "before the mast" to Demerara in a wind-jammer that Frank Bullen, whose death has just occurred, got his first experience of the sea. He made his name as a writer by his first book, "The Cruise of the Cachalot," which has become a classic.

THE Women's Hostel in connection with Codrington College, which has been organised by Miss E. Robinson, was opened on February 16th by the Governor and Lady Probyn, in the presence of the Bishop and Mrs. Swaby and a distinguished gathering.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Stewart Spencer, eldest son of the Hon. B. S. and Mrs. Davis of St. Kitts, and Emma Agnes Darnell, only daughter of Mr. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., and Mrs. Davis, late of British Guiana. Mr. S. S. Davis is Chief Assistant Treasurer of the Gold Coast.

MR. E. D. LABORDE's three nephews, who are serving in the Navy are descendants of General Laborde, who commanded one of the French armies in the Peninsular War, and, on the maternal side, of Mrs. Nesbit, who was married to Nelson in Nevis, on March 11th, 1787.

MR. T. LESLIE JARVIS, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, and lately acting Commissioner of Montserrat, has arrived in London on nine months leave of absence, none the worse for his recent exciting experience when he was adrift for fifty-two hours in a mastless sloop between Montserrat and Antigua.

JAMAICA has cause to be specially proud of two of her sons. One, Private Stewart of the 5th Shropshire Light Infantry, has just received from Queen Mary the prize for winning the seven miles cross-country race for the Championship of the 14th Division at

Aldershot. To Private Slim has fallen the honour of being the first Jamaican to join the Coldstream Guards. In the early stages of the war he fought with the French Foreign Legion and was wounded. He then obtained special permission to join the French Army.

ONE hundred and ninety-nine bags of Demerara yellow sugar, being Messrs. Davson and Co.'s gift to the National Relief Fund, were put up for sale in Mincing Lane on 9th inst., on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. To encourage bidding, the sugar was put up in 5 bag lots, and the opening of the sale was marked by spirited bidding, the first lot being sold at the remarkable price of 120s. per cwt., from which the bids gradually receded until they reached the normal value of the sugar. The buyers who thus rose to the occasion must be congratulated on their patriotism. It is many years since sugar was sold at such a price in Mincing Lane.

It is a curious coincidence that Mr. Edward L. Atkinson, who was born in St. Vincent, should now be Surgeon in His Majesty's ship of the same name—though the latter was called after the first Lord St. Vincent, who took his title from the scene of the naval battle off Spain, and not after the West Indian island. Dr. Atkinson, who is a son of Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Manager of the Colonial Bank in Trinidad, accompanied Scott on his Antarctic Expedition, and was in charge of the southern party who found the bodies of the explorer and his companions. Until recently he was in China with a doctor from the Tropical School of Medicine investigating an obscure disease prevalent in those parts.

PENNY postage between the United States and the West Indies will be inaugurated upon April 1st next. For many years the United States declined to agree to a reduction of the 2½d. rate; but now the proposals have emanated from Washington. They have been accepted by Barbados and will probably be agreed to by the Leeward Islands; some West West Indian colonies are, however, standing out through fear of loss of revenue. Since Imperial penny postage was introduced at Christmas, 1898, the volume of correspondence between the West Indies and the United Kingdom has increased enormously. It is probable that the coming reduction will have similar results. Meanwhile the lack of uniformity in the West Indies is to be regretted.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda (5s.; post free 5s. 4d.), are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

MUNITIONS of war, in these days, are as urgently needed as men, and the strike of the Clyde engineers occasioned for a time real anxiety. Thousands of men were affected, while the loss of a single working day is perilous not merely for ourselves but for our Allies. A dispute over wages lay at the bottom of the trouble. The matter has been settled, but not without Government intervention. Even so the terms of peace cannot be considered wholly satisfactory. No overtime is to be worked. So great is the pressure, however, that there is need of every workman putting in overtime.

It is only after their deaths that we are able to realise the supreme character of the sacrifice made by so many of our heroes. Deeply impressive are some of the facts reported. A study of the wills published from day to day reveals vast fortunes which together with their lives have been given up by our officers. One read recently of a baronet, aged 34, killed at the front, whose estate was valued at a quarter of a million. Life is sweet to all, but the surrender in a case such as this illustrates in most striking fashion the depth of loyalty and devotion which England is able to inspire in her sons.

THE war is teaching many lessons in domestic economy. Everywhere cookery classes are crowded. With the need of careful expenditure, and the elimination of all waste, ladies at the head of households are evincing a more practical interest than ever before in the preparation of food. This enthusiasm cannot fail to benefit the health and the pockets of the nation. There exists also a keener desire for variety of food. The fruit sent from overseas for our wounded troops is becoming familiar, in name at least to a wider public, and there is no reason to doubt but that a demand will be stimulated in the home circle after the war, if not before.

ALREADY the public houses, and with them restaurants and clubs, have witnessed a restriction of hours, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has hinted at further action by the Government. Mr. Lloyd George suggested a connection between the drink problem and the labour trouble in Scotland. Should it be amply proved that the abundance of money now being earned on Government contracts is a snare to the worker and a gain to the publican we may expect drastic measures. The stern decision of Russia and France in regard to alcohol has produced a deep impression in this country.

WALES has been very much in the "limelight" of late. Her remarkable rally to the colours has been followed by several reviews of the troops of the Principality. On March 1st, St. David's Day,

the new Welsh Guards were on duty for the first time at Buckingham Palace. As expected, the emblem of these latest Guards will be the lock, and their motto "Wales for Ever."

FOR a day or two the German submarine "blockade"—generally and rightly termed piracy—produced effects by destroying several defenceless steamers off our shores, but the loss of life was happily negligible. Any momentary misgiving, however, was dispelled by the speeches in Parliament of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The financial resources of the nation as therein disclosed astonished even the optimists. Mr. Asquith's announcement of complete retaliation perfected the good impression.

INTEREST created by the bombardment of the Dardanelles, the latest and most conspicuous feature of our operations, centred largely in the presence in the Straits of H.M.S. *Queen Elizabeth*. Trinidad, in particular, will read with eagerness of the exploits of this most powerful of all battleships. Equipped with the 15-in. gun, which can hurl for a distance of ten or twelve miles a shell weighing a ton, her chief title to fame is that she is the first battleship to be dependent solely on oil fuel.

THE other Crown Colonies will extend their sympathy to Singapore in her unhappy experience of trouble with an Indian regiment stationed there, which led to fatal rioting. The Governor of the Straits Settlements, who is also High Commissioner of the Malay States, Sir Arthur Henderson Young is a most capable official. Years ago when still Captain Young, Receiver-General of Cyprus, he distributed in St. Vincent the relief subscribed by a sympathetic world when the Soufrière caused such devastation.

NEVIS will learn with interest of the death of a granddaughter of Viscountess Nelson, wife of the ever illustrious Admiral. This granddaughter was Mrs. Mary Thruston, widow of Mr. C. F. Thruston, of Talgarth Hall, Montgomeryshire. Eighty-eight years of age, she was the last surviving daughter of Captain John Nisbet, R.N., stepson of Lord Nelson, whose life he saved at the Battle of Teneriffe.

THE *Philippine Agricultural Review* is strongly advocating the development of a sago industry in the Philippines. It points out that the sago palm is already profitably exploited for sago in the neighbouring countries, and that it is the source of a wholesome palatable food which is in demand all over the world, and thinks that a valuable opportunity for the establishment of another agricultural industry is being lost in the Philippines. Why should not sago from the sago palm add another industry to the West Indies?

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

MR. P. E. BROWN has been experimenting with farmyard manure in relation to the bacteria of the soil. With application up to 16 tons per acre, the number of organisms in the soil, as well as its ammonifying and nitrifying powers increased. Twenty tons per acre caused a diminution in the number of bacteria, and in the ammonifying and nitrifying power. In accordance with these results it was observed that the biggest return of corn was with the 16 tons per acre application, the return from 20 tons being less than that with 12 tons.

\* \* \*

SOME time ago Sir Alfred Rollit imported some young plants of the grape-fruit tree from British Guiana. These plants were grown in medium heat in a greenhouse at St. Anne's Hill, Chertsey, and specimens of the fruit exhibited at a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society held on the 3rd of last month. The *Field* speaks of the fruit as having a clean and refined, though acidulated, taste, and as having hygienic qualities as being the vehicle of citrates. For these it is largely consumed on the breakfast tables of America, as well as on the dinner tables of this country, where it is generally eaten with a spirit or some liqueur.

\* \* \*

THE *Indian Agriculturist* gives the following method of curing vanilla. The green beans, after first being sorted into equal lengths, are put in open-work baskets, which are then plunged into large pots containing water heated to within a few degrees of the boiling point, where they are allowed to remain from fifteen to twenty seconds. After coming out of the water they are placed upon mats to drain, and when this is accomplished they are heaped into a pile, covered with blankets, and allowed to dry for a short time, after which they are taken into the open, spread upon matting and well covered with blankets. They are allowed to remain in the sun for several hours during the hottest part of the day.

In the afternoon they are taken up and placed in large, blanket-lined, hermetically-sealed cases, very similar to the Mexican "Calon," where they are left over night. The next day this programme is repeated. In all the beans receive this treatment about eight times on consecutive days, if the weather permits. After this they are put on frames in a well aired drying-room and left there for a considerable period, being examined from time to time as to their condition and flavour. When this is satisfactory they are placed in a depository and again left for some time for further development, and when this passes inspection they are taken out to be bundled. Having previously been sorted according to lengths, nothing remains but to grade them as to quality.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.



The dislocation of correspondence resulting from the suspension of the December mail sailing—for which, we claim, there was no valid excuse as it was not attributed to the commandeering of the mail steamers—was making itself felt when the R.M.S.P. *Ebro* left Barbados. The steamer reached Falmouth on Saturday March 6th, and the mails were delivered on Monday. The following notes are extracted from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

#### BAHAMAS—Mr. Hart-Bennett's Speech.

His Excellency the Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Administrator of the Government, opening the annual session of the Legislature on February 8th, referred in a statesmanlike speech to the war, and to the part which the Dominions and Colonies were playing in connection with it. He welcomed many visitors from the United States, and expressed appreciation of the efforts made by their powerful neighbour, in so far as her attitude of neutrality permitted, to relieve the suffering and distress which had arisen through the war. He paid a tribute to the British Navy, which had enabled inhabitants of the Colony to live in peaceful security, and to maintain one of their assets—the tourist season. The Colony had suffered more than its neighbours in the West Indies as it did not produce necessities such as sugar. The exports of sponge and sisal had declined, and most of the brokers had decided not to fit out their vessels. In many cases, however, the fishermen had themselves brought in sponges on their own account, and endeavours had been made to increase the market in England. Emigration to Florida continued. 3758 men and women having gone there, while 3,059 returned. The Administrator said that there would probably be on March 31st a deficit of £19,000, and if the war continued it was probable that there would be a deficit of £17,000 on the year beginning April 1st next, but these figures need not make them downhearted, the public debt, which was being paid off at the rate of £6,500 a year being only £42,000. He had no doubt that the £10,000 remitted to, and gratefully accepted, by His Majesty's Government would be unanimously endorsed. The Colony had, he understood, also sent £3,000 to the Prince of Wales' Fund, besides clothing and fruit for sufferers. Considerable numbers of volunteers had also enrolled themselves for service in the Navy, and he hoped that their desire to serve might be gratified.

On February 6th the very successful "Allies Ball" was given at the Colonial Hotel. Military caps and silk flags of the Allies were given to the dancers, and many American visitors were present.

#### BARBADOS—The Local Patriotic Funds.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., FEBRUARY 22nd.—I am glad to hear that you are following up the matter of the change in colour of No. 16 Dutch Standard. The following is the information with regard to the local patriotic and Belgian funds:—

Prince of Wales' Fund £3000 remitted; £1298 15s. 3d. to be remitted.

Queen Mary's Fund, £320 remitted; £200 to be remitted.  
Barbados Motor Ambulance, £613.  
Barbados Branch of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild,  
£275.

Belgian Relief Fund, £1641. 10s.  
Queen of the Belgians Fund, £580 4s. 2d.

Reaping is being begun, but the return is not satisfactory as the canes are not ripe.

The *Barbados Advocate* records a number of cane fires and five arrests for arson. During the month Battalys, St. Peter (54 acres), was bought by Messrs. Kelluan for £1,750; Little Island, St. Joseph, by Mr. E. T. Cox for £582; Wildev, St. Michael (174 acres), by Messrs. Evelyn and Ward £5,006, Vancluse, St. Thomas (581 acres), by Messrs. George Clarke and Robert Arthur, £26,000. The House of Assembly has voted £200 for the provision of further accommodation for interned enemies. A joint Committee of the House has decided to recommend an export duty on sugar and molasses as a means of meeting the expected revenue deficit. Jack Johnson has been a visitor to the island on his way to Mexico. On February 10th Mr. Allan O'Neale Skinner, of Speightstown, was married to Miss Gladys Packer, daughter of Mr. Charles Packer at St. Lucy's Church.

#### BRITISH GUIANA The Royal Bank at Rose Hall.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, FEBRUARY 20th.—The dry dock at the Penal Settlement was formally opened by the Governor on the 18th of July, the *Aravauna* being the first steamer docked. A double set of clergy stalls had been dedicated at the Cathedral to the memory of the late Hon. B. Howell Jones, C.M.G. The 46th half-yearly general meeting of the Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society had been held on the 10th, when a general satisfactory state of affairs with regard to this Society was made public. The vacant position of Government Bacteriologist, had been filled by Dr. F. G. Rose, a native of the Colony and a British Guiana scholar, who had arrived to take up the appointment. A branch of the Royal Bank of Canada had been opened at Rose Hall Village on the Corentyne Coast.

#### DOMINICA—The Lime Trees Flowering.

MR. E. A. AGAR, FEBRUARY 19th.—The weather for the past fortnight has been fine and lime trees are now flowering well generally.

#### JAMAICA—The Lack of Shipping Facilities.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS (MORANT BAY), FEBRUARY 12th.—Since last advices our seasons have continued to be the best we have had for the past seven years, and crops generally are most promising. We are all much exercised however in regard to the future of bananas: the want of tonnage appears to be the perplexing problem, and naturally buyers will not contract unless there is the certainty of tonnage being procured. The withdrawal of the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has made a great difference to the island, and, unfortunately, no one can say how long this will last; at the moment it seems almost a permanent withdrawal, as the entire office staff has received notice of dismissal. Sugar planters have fairly well responded to the Governor's call for sugar, and contracts have been made at about an average of £17 per ton f.o.b. Jamaica for fair grocery description. The sugar crop for this year will be somewhat short owing to the drought of last year, but with present season's there is a promise of good crops for 1916. The Governor has had to be retrenching in every possible way so as to meet the falling off in revenue, and therefore the circulation of money has decreased, our labouring people are feeling present conditions

more than any others, yet in spite of all things, our island has responded wonderfully to the calls of contributions. We have subscribed about £20,000 to War Funds, and are contributing £50,000 in sugar to England, but these contributions have hardly transpired, and whilst we are far from being ostentatious, yet it with some pride that we are able to think of what has been done. It is exceedingly difficult to get our produce away, as no direct shipment can be made to England, and our only way would be via Halifax or New York, but these places are in the same difficulty, and so hardly of any use our sending by this route. Our exports of coconuts for 1914 amount to 30 millions, and with increased production, and with only one market open to us (the United States) where a surplus of five millions would upset their limited market, prices have lowered from the enormous height obtained early in 1911, but even in face of a limited demand large contracts are being made at prices that leave a handsome profit to growers.

#### MONTSERRAT—Captain Elgee's Arrival.

MR. K. P. PENCHON, FEBRUARY 19th.—We appear to be in for a dry spell. An inch or two of rain would be of considerable benefit to the fairly large area of land planted in corn on the leeward coast. The chief feature of interest during the fortnight has been the arrival of Captain Elgee by the Royal Mail Steamer of the 12th, to act as Commissioner, and his swearing in on the 13th at noon in the Court House. This function was for the first time in my memory largely attended by many ladies and gentlemen. Captain Elgee made quite an appropriate speech which was favourably received. He was then introduced by the Hon. E. F. Dyett, Assistant Treasurer, to several of the ladies and gentlemen present. Captain Elgee is, we understand, to act as Magistrate as well as Commissioner. Mr. Foster accompanied Captain Elgee from England and will we understand, take the place as Clerk to the Commissioner.

#### ST. KITTS—Ripening Weather Needed.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, FEBRUARY 18th.—We have had very little ripening weather for the canes to the present, and planters are chary of cutting heavily as the canes are greva the Factory running out of canes sometimes in consequence of this. To date the amount remitted to the Red Cross Fund totals £262 12s. 2d., and to the Belgian Relief Fund £213 17s. 9d. The Musical and Dramatic Society gave another very enjoyable evening's entertainment on the 17th inst., presenting a one act comediotta "Our At 'Ome Day," and a farce "Woodcock's Little Game," to a small but appreciative audience. £12 was cleared for the Red Cross Society. There is no doubt we have some excellent local stage talent, and it is a pity there is not a larger public to appreciate their efforts.

#### ST. LUCIA—Mr. Gideon Murray to arrive in April.

HON. GEORGE S. HUDSON, FEBRUARY 19th.—The weather has been of the dry season variety, but not excessively so. The first shipment of new crop sugar will be effected next week. The Royal Mail are now taking cargo for London; previously they were attempting to book cargo for any port in the United Kingdom, with railway carriage at shipper's cost, and there were not many "takers" on these terms. The Legislative Council met yesterday, and passed expenditure of about £66,000, with an estimated revenue of £58,000 for 1915-16—a probable deficit of £8,000. The past year also showed a deficit, apart from war expenses, of a similar amount. Under these circumstances there would appear to be a fair case for the severest economy in every depart-

ment but beyond eliminating all new Public Works expenditure, and a few minor economies principally pressed for by the unofficial section, the Government prefer to await suggestions for increased taxation from the Finance Committee which has been revived for this useful purpose. I do not think there is any serious objection to some new taxation, but it is largely admitted that we are over-staffed, and trying to do too much during this time of depression. The establishment which was right and proper when our income was £70,000, becomes unwieldy with an income of £58,000, which may quite possibly fall even lower. His Honour, Mr. Murray, is not now expected in the Colony until April, when the Hon. A. de Freitas, now acting as Administrator here, will proceed to St. Vincent to take up the post of Chief Justice there, to which he has been lately appointed.

#### ST. VINCENT—Mr. A de Freitas to be Chief Justice.

MR. W. N. SANDS, FEBRUARY 20th.—There is little to write of this mail. There is no change yet to record in the depressed condition of the markets for our cotton and arrowroot. Sugar cane and coco-nut planting is receiving increased attention, but this cannot carry us very far, or give us much help for some time to come. The question of the partial substitution of food crops for export is receiving notice, but it is not possible to say what line of action will be definitely adopted by planters until the planting season, commencing in May, comes round. The news of the appointment of Mr. Anthony de Freitas, Attorney General of St. Lucia, as Chief Justice of this Colony has been received with much pleasure locally. Mr. de Freitas will probably arrive sometime next month.

#### TOBAGO—The Obnoxious Produce Tax.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, FEBRUARY 18th.—There seems little good in the Government watching prices of food-stuffs if the carriers are allowed to increase the freights as they like. It is no longer a question of supply and demand, but of conference and combination to squeeze the public, and drastic measures ought to be adopted. By last mail quite a number of letters arrived dated 22nd to 29th December, said to be via New York, but the slowest cargo boats must have been the carriers to take so long a time in transit. From New York they came per *Maraval*, which was delayed by a fire in one hold, but even that hardly accounts for seven weeks en route. Light showers have fallen occasionally since last mail, which may save a few young cacao pods, but the heavy change of leaf means later flowering, and it will be exceptional weather that can benefit the young flowers now on the trees. The bulk of the crop has already been shipped, and only the tail end benefited by the fine prices now quoted. I would prefer to see steady rates even if lower than at present, but food-stuffs during the war must necessarily fluctuate. All parties will be pleased to note that asphalt shipments from Trinidad are being resumed, as it was chiefly the shrinkage of revenue therefrom that rendered necessary the recent "emergency taxation." Planters are now looking forward to the dropping of the "Produce Tax," which is borne by one section of the community only, and causes much grumbling in consequence.

#### TRINIDAD—Sir Norman Lamont on the Council.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, FEBRUARY 22nd.—The Session of the Legislative Council was opened with much ceremony on the 19th, when the Governor delivered the usual address on things past and hopes of the future. It was a very comprehensive speech, containing a review of the war and

the causes and effects thereof, and all local subjects of interest, financial or otherwise. A notable omission was the absence of any reference to the substantial windfalls to the Treasury in connection with death duties. It was intimated that the Government was taking into consideration the substitution of an income tax for some existing taxes, and also the revision of the Civil Service of the Colony. His Excellency's term of office has been extended to the end of the year. It was announced that Sir Norman Lamont had been appointed member of Council in place of Mr. Moodie, resigned, and the honourable baronet took the oaths and his seat amid general marks of approval. It is the most popular appointment made for years, and the wish expressed is that the new member will be able to give the colony an ample share of his time and attention. The Petrol Freight Committee mountain has at last been delivered of its wee mouse, the poor little animal being exactly what was expected, if not known of before, and we are just as wise as ever.

Gifts from the Colony for war funds, etc., still come and go forward. The latest is from the Trinidad Breeders' Association. The amount is \$1,750 which goes to the Blue Cross Fund. It would probably have been ten times as much but for the efforts of the Puritan abroad who has been very much in evidence of late in the direction of sport spoiling. The Association originated a monster lottery for the West Indies on the results of one of the Turf Club Races. There were no promotion expenses, and 30 per cent. of the gross receipts were allocated for the good cause. The tickets were selling like wild fire, but the Association had reckoned without its Stiggins. Some old anti-Lottery ordinance was raked up and the constabulary were warned to do their duty. The honorary secretary in the matter was dragged into the police court. Even the police seemed ashamed to prosecute, but the Association insisted on seeing the thing through, whatever it cost. Then the magistrate, who, it is understood, was a subscriber himself, had to do his duty. After instilling upon the delinquent the gravity of the charge, he said he would take the circumstances into consideration and would "reprimand and discharge him." Whether Stiggins will take further action now that he knows a goodly sum had been already collected in spite of his efforts remains to be seen, but he has this satisfaction that the aid to horses at the war is only a tithe of what it would have been but for his patriotic intervention, although it must be somewhat bitter to know that Mr. A. A. Cipriani suffered no more than to be "reprimanded and discharged."

By the *Ebro* to-day, the first shipment of the Colony's gift of cacao, 2,000 bags, is made. Another notable shipment lately was that of 500 bags of cassava flour to the Emido Company, Ltd., forwarded by the Managing Director, Mr. Vyvyan Board, who is now here in the Company's interest at their factory on the Palmiste Estate of Sir Norman Lamont. This new industry looks very hopeful, especially from the point of view of rotation crops. I am sorry to report serious differences between the factory owners and the cane farmers. The latter had agreed to a sliding scale, with a maximum and minimum price, in accordance with quotations in New York for sugar. The planters, however low sugar has gone, have always paid the minimum. Now that sugar is booming, and the planter sees the chance of getting something of his own back, the farmer is not contented with the maximum, but claims his right to share besides in the unexpected rise. The latter has, of course, received advances upon his agreement that are binding, but it is hoped that it will not be necessary to have recourse to the law. Meanwhile there is a deadlock. The planters refuse to pay more than they bargained for,

and the farmers have pledged themselves not to cut a cane until their demands are yielded to. A meeting has been called for Wednesday, by Mr. G. C. Wyatt, who has done so much for the industry, when representatives of the men and the big estates will talk together, and it is sincerely to be hoped that a solution will be found. Cane farming has proved itself to be so valuable an adjunct of the factory, that it would be a calamity if anything occurred to interfere seriously with it.

The Masquerade has again come and gone. It was a poor affair, but disreputable and degrading as usual. It was hoped that the Executive would have suggested, in view of the happenings in Europe, that the whole thing should be abandoned this year at any rate, but the opportunity was lost. The Children's Carnival, at the Queen's Park Cricket Ground, always a fairy scene, and one of the red letter days of childhood, came off as usual, and Mrs. A. S. Bowen and the other ladies who give so much time and thought and trouble to this annual event are again to be congratulated and thanked for a successful entertainment, which was enjoyed alike by young and old.

### OUR LIBRARY.

Lady Lubbock has kindly presented to the West India Committee a number of rare and interesting books collected by the late Sir Neville Lubbock, its first President. Among them are the following volumes which will form a valuable addition to the library.

*De Novo Orbe, OR THE HISTORIE OF THE WEST INDIES, Containing the Actes and adventures of the Spanyards, which have conquered and peopled those Countries, enriched with varietie of pleasant relation of the Manners, Ceremonies, Lawes, Governments, and Warres of the Indians. Comprised in eight Decades.* Written by Peter Martyr a Millanofe of Angleria, Chiefe Secretary to the Emperour Charles the fifth, and of his Privie Councell. Whereof three, have been formerly translated into English, by R. Eden, whereunto the other five, are newly adde by the Industrie, and painefull Trauaille of M. Lok Gent. London. Printed for Thomas Adams, 1612.

AMERICA, OR AN EXACT DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES : MORE ESPECIALLY OF THOSE PROVINCES WHICH ARE UNDER THE KING OF SPAIN. Faithfully represented by N. N. Gent. London, printed by Ric. Hodgkinsome, for Edw. Dod, and are to be sold at the Gun in Ivy-lane. 1665. With map of America.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA; WITH THE OTHER ISLES AND TERRITORIES IN AMERICA, TO WHICH THE ENGLISH ARE RELATED, &c.

<i>Barbados</i>	<i>Montserrat</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
<i>St. Christophers</i>	<i>Anguilla</i>	<i>Maryland</i>
<i>Niueis or Mevis</i>	<i>Barbada</i>	<i>New-York</i>
<i>Antego</i>	<i>Bermudes</i>	<i>New-England</i>
<i>St. Vincent</i>	<i>Carolina</i>	<i>New-Foundland</i>
<i>Dominica</i>		

Published by Richard Blome. Together with the Present State of Algiers. London. Printed by F. R. for Dorman Newman, at the King's Arms in the Poultry, 1678. A complete copy with "A New & Exact Mapp of Ye Isle of Jamaica, as it was lately surveyed by order of Sr. Thomas Mediford Bart. late Govern. divided into Precincts, or Parishes with its Ports, Bayes, etc: 1671, "A Mapp of the Island of Barbados Taken from the Latest Survey." By Ric. Blome, 1672, "A Generall Mapp of Carolina. Describing its Sea Coast and Rivers," and "A Draught of the Sea Coast and Rivers of Virginia, Maryland, and New England. Taken from the latest Surveys." From the Hamilton Palace Library, Beckford Collection.

HISTOIRE NATURELLE ET MORALE DES ISLES ANTILLES DE L'AMERIQUE. *Enrichie d'un grand nombre de belles Figures en taille douce, des Places & des Raretez les plus consider-*

*ables, qui y sont decrites. Avec un Vocabulaire Caraibe.* Seconde Edition. Reueüe & augmentée de plusieurs Descriptions, & de quelques éclaircissements, qu'on defiroit eu la precedente. A Rotterdam, Chez Arnout Leers, 1665.

This volume bears the autographs of the late Steuart S. Davis, father of the Hon. B. S. Davis of St. Kitts, and of his brother, Wm. Darnell Davis, father of Mr. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., and the inscription

This book was presented to me by Mr. Darnell [B.S.] Davis, on the 11th March, 1899, on the occasion of my having lunch with him at his Estate in St. Kitts, in company with Sir Cutbert Quilter, Bart., and Mr. P. Abel of Trinidad. In presenting it, he said he did so in consequence of my long services in the interest of the West Indies.—N. Lubbock.

NOUVEAUX VOYAGES AUX INDES OCCIDENTALES; *Contenant une Relation des differens Peuples qui habitent les environs du grand Fleuve Saint-Louis, appellé vulgairement le Mississipi; leur Religion; leur gouvernement; leurs mœurs; leurs guerres & leur commerce.* Par M. Bossu, Capitaine dans les Troupes de la Marine. A Paris Chez Le Jay, Libraire, Quay de Gèvres, 1768. Two Volumes. Plates by G. de St. Aubin. Old gilt tree-marbled calf binding by Kัทthuber. From the Hamilton Palace Library, Beckford Collection.

THE HISTORY, CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL, OF THE BRITISH COLONIES IN THE WEST INDIES : In Two Volumes. By Bryan Edwards, Esq., of the Island of Jamaica; F.R.S., S.A., and Member of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia. The Second Edition, Illustrated with Maps, London. Printed for John Stockdale, Piccadilly. 1794.

Appended to the first volume is an autograph letter from Mr. Bryan Edwards to "Edward Long, Esq., Wimpole Street," seeking "information regarding the Windward Islands," and enclosing "a sheet or two of the introduction," of which only 20 copies were printed. This draft introduction, which is well preserved, differs in several respects from that eventually printed. The introduction in proof bears the title "An Historical, Political, and Commercial Survey of the West Indian Islands, chiefly those of Great Britain."

AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE FRENCH COLONY IN THE ISLAND OF ST. DOMINGO: Comprehending a short account of its ancient Government, Political State, Population, Production and exports; a narrative of the calamities which have desolated the country ever since the year 1789, with some reflections on their causes and probable consequences; and a detail of the military transactions of the British Army in that island to the end of 1794. By Bryan Edwards, Esq., M.P., F.R.S., &c., author of the History of the British Colonies in the West Indies. London: Published for John Stockdale, Piccadilly, 1797.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE WEST INDIES. By Thomas Southey, Commander Royal Navy. In Three Volumes. London, Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, 1827.

The Proceedings of the Third International Congress of Tropical Agriculture. London, John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. Pages 400, 10s. net. This substantial volume is edited by the Honorary Secretaries of the Congress, which, it will be remembered, was held last June at the Imperial Institute. This was the first time the Congress had been held in London, and the result was most successful. More than 150 papers, coming from authorities in fifty different countries, were presented to the Congress, and important discussions took place on several of the principal problems connected with tropical agriculture. Abstracts of the papers and full reports of the discussions are printed in the "Proceedings," together with the address delivered by the President of the Congress, Professor Wyndham R. Dunstan, C.M.G., I.L.D., F.R.S., Director of the Imperial Institute, and President of the International Association for Tropical Agriculture. Amongst the subjects dealt with in the "Proceedings" are Technical Education in Tropical Agriculture; Organisation of Agricultural Departments in Relation to Research; Agricultural Credit Banks and Co-operative Societies; Sanitation and Hygiene on Tropical Estates; Legislation against Plant Diseases and Pests; Fertility of Soils in the Tropics; Variation in Plantation Rubber; Cotton and Cotton Cultivation; Jute and Hemp Fibres; Cereals; Sugar; Cocoa; Tobacco; Oils and Oil Seeds. The speakers taking part in

the discussions included the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, M.P., (Secretary of State for the Colonies), Earl Kitchener, the Earl of Derby, Lord Emmott, Sir George Reid, Sir Hugh Clifford, Sir Horace Plunkett, Sir Ronald Ross, Sir H. Hesketh Bell, Sir Sydney Olivier, Sir E. Rosling, and a host of authorities on tropical agriculture from all over the world. This book thus forms a valuable record of expert opinion on all the more important problems of Tropical Agriculture and Colonial Development, which at the present time are of particular interest.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Divs	Latest Quotations.	Prongs
debt		Mar. 6
1	Antigua ... 4% Redeemable 1919-44	97
1 1/2	Barbados ... 3 1/2% Redeemable 1925-42	85
4	British Guiana ... 4% Redeemable 1935	98
4	British Guiana ... 3% Redeemable 1923-45	76
4	Grenada ... 4% Redeemable 1917-42	95
1	Jamaica ... 4% Redeemable 1924	99
1	Jamaica ... 3 1/2% Redeemable 1919-49	87
3 1/2	Jamaica ... 3% Redeemable 1922-44	74
3	St. Lucia ... 4% Redeemable 1919-44	97
4	Trinidad ... 4% Redeemable 1917-42	98
3	Trinidad ... 3% Redeemable 1922-44	77
6	The Colonial Bank ...	5 1/2
1	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	87 1/2
1	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	99 1/2
1 1/2	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	102
1 1/2	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	104
1 1/2	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2% Debentures	100 1/2 xd.
1	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	15 1/2
6	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	103 1/2
7	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	7 1/2
1	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/1 shares)	7 1/2
1	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/1 paid)	par
1	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	35
7	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	104
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	79
1	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	89 1/2
1 1/2	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	99
1 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	104
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref	104
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd" pref	104
5 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd 5% Debentures	99 1/2

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Trent, March 10th:—

Mr. & Mrs. A. Mahaffy	Misses Yarborough (2)	Mr. S. C. Harland
Miss S. Mahaffy	Mr. H. S. Brassington	Miss Veilard
Canon C. Yarborough		

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Orissa, March 24th:—

Mr. C. Revell	Mr. & Mrs. S. Walker	Mr. J. Gornall
Mr. W. D. Inmiss		

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Tagus, April 7th:—

Dr. F. Mahibir

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica	
Jan. 1 to Feb. 11, 1915		Jan 1 to Feb. 6, 1914	
Sugar ...	9,501	13,671 Tons.	84
Molasses ...	—	518 Puns.	630 Tons.
Rum ...	835,575	19,411 Gall.	15,810
Molasecur. Ac. ...	194	209 Tons.	...
Cacao ...	13,438	19,637 lbs.	...
Coffee ...	29,685	13,370	1,316,560
Coco-nuts ...	110,013	288,725 No.	2,116,710 No
Oranges ...	—	377,900	676,800
Bananas ...	—	365,918	780,939
Cotton ...	—	—	...
Pimento ...	—	8,994	14,170 Cwts.
Ginger ...	—	382	1,066
Honey ...	—	192	6,629 Gall.
Eyewoods ...	—	5,477	3,683 Tons.
Gold ...	8,344	6,490 ozs.	...
Diamonds ...	—	1,264 Carats.	...
Rice ...	3,102,638	2,828,135 lbs.	...
Balata ...	184,791	136,114	...
Rubber ...	230	—	...
Timber ...	19,293	21,267 cubic ft.	...
Lumber ...	4,550	24,335 ft.	...
Lime (citrate of) ...	413	—	...

St. Vincent.		Barbados	
Jan 1 to Dec. 31, 1914		Jan 1 to Dec. 31, 1913	
Cacao	3,797,326	4,302,965 lbs.	...
Cacao	238,339	207,926	...
Cotton	520,666	484,975	...
Seed	798,028	1,173,675	...

Trinidad.		Barbados	
Jan. 1 to Feb. 22, 1915		Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	
Sugar ...	996	202 Tons.	33,267
Molasses ...	463	165 Puns.	102,697
Rum ...	469	110	82,090 Puns.
Coco-nuts ...	758,860	2,352,085 No.	...
Asphalt ...	5,449	7,398 Tons.	...
Manjak ...	53	81	...
Bitters ...	1,983	1,641 Cases.	...
Coffee ...	—	4,000 lbs.	...
Crude Petrol ...	53,540	963,539 Gall.	...
Cacao ...	14,727,600	15,458,800 lbs.	6,945,280
Cotton ...	—	—	4,897,260 lbs.
Seed ...	—	—	35
Copra ...	2,811	674 Bags.	96
Spice ...	—	—	330,893
Kola ...	—	—	1,620

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. Geoffrey Brooke	Mr. G. Graf
Mr. A. F. Anderson	Lt.-Col. W. B. Davidson	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart
Mr. F. C. Archer	Houston, C.M.G.	Mr. A. S. Kernahan
Mr. E. G. Braddon	Mr. F. Evans	Mr. G. Ralton
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. F. E. Everington	Mr. Wm. Smith
Mr. A. F. Bratt	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. J. D. Wall
Mr. G. Carew, "Greylands," Ashburton, Devon.		
Mr. E. P. Gladwin, "Homeley," St. Andrews Road, Portslade, Sussex.		
Mr. N. Scott Johnson, 25, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.		
Sir Frederic M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.		
Major D. H. E. Marescaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.		
Mr. H. P. McCulloch, 23, Corporation Street, Belfast.		
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.		
Mr. J. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.		
Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.		

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Trent, (Commander R. Hayes), Palmouth, Feb. 21st:—

Mr. J. W. Brethwaite	Mr. J. R. W. Holly	Captain W. E. Smith
Mr. S. R. Boag	Mr. R. H. Ho-a-Hing	Mr. F. G. Spiddell
Dr. H. F. Blood	Mr. F. W. Havelock	Mr. W. F. Sebborn
Mrs. Blood	Mr. E. Hargreave	Mrs. S. Savage
Mr. A. C. Cheater	Mr. J. F. Hardine	Mr. V. A. Short
Madame Daubert	Mr. Yew Kong	Mr. A. E. Treherne
Mr. H. Eccles	Mr. P. R. Lancaster	Mr. E. K. Thurston
Mr. H. Haynes Frost	Mr. P. R. Murnaghan	Mr. J. Vivian
Mr. H. J. Gintyer	Major K. A. Macleod	Mr. A. Verdoote
Captain F. Henderson	Mr. A. Morrison	Mr. W. Douglas Young
Mr. G. W. Hardy	Mr. E. K. B. Peck	C.M.G.
Mr. P. F. Hechbert	Mr. J. McIntosh Reid	Miss C. E. Young

Dominica.		Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.	
		1914.	1913.
Cacao ...	...	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes ...	...	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw ...	...	379,875	336,728 galls.
" " concentrated	...	148,179	158,974
" " Citrate of ...	...	5,191	4,753 cwts.
Lime Oil, distilled	...	3,094	5,370 galls.
" " equalled	...	1,619	1,505
Hardwood ...	...	82,134	77,903 feet
Bananas ...	...	3,780	4,266 stems
Coconuts ...	...	354,549	448,747 No.

The new edition of the Pocket Guide to the West Indies (5s. net) includes chapters on British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bermudas, the Bahamas, the Spanish Main, and the Panama Canal.



## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE**—Remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August last. The War Loan is quoted at 1% discount. Consols stand at 68½.

**SUGAR**—The attention of the sugar world is now concentrated on the progress of the Cuban crop. Weather and crop conditions materially improved up to the 31st, when less favourable conditions were reported. While Messrs. Willett and Gray are of opinion that a crop of nearly 2,600,000 tons will be reached. Hincely, the Cuban expert, predicts a falling off from last year's crop of 2,507,732 tons of 212,000 tons. But, as we have pointed out, the extent of the Cuban crop this year depends entirely upon the duration of the weather suitable for reaping, as the opinion is general that there are sufficient canes on the ground to give a crop equal to that of last year. It is, however, against experience and probability that the arrears of deliveries can be made up. As regards the Continent, the German beet crop has turned out but slightly short of the 2,738,000 tons of the 1913-14 campaign. In fact there is every reason to believe that it is not far short of 2,600,000 tons. The large stocks of sugar which existed in Germany at the beginning of the war, the practical cessation of the export trade, and a full sugar crop has brought about a glut of sugar in Germany. In view of this position, and of the shortness of wheat, there is likely to be a considerable diminution of the sowings for next crop. Accounts from Austria-Hungary are not so definite, but it may be looked upon as assured that there has been a large shortage on last year's crop of 1,700,000 tons, 30 per cent. being spoken of, say 500,000 tons. With a shortage of 550,000 tons in France and 150,000 tons in Belgium, and with full crops in other European producing countries, the total shortage will seem to be in the neighbourhood of 1,300,000 tons. Java has contributed no less than 620,000 tons of its recent crop to the United Kingdom's supplies, a third of her present requirements. This, of course, has not been done without other countries, notably India, suffering. This country absorbed over 500,000 tons of Java's 1913 crop, and, although up to the time of the outbreak of war the shipments of sugar from Java to India had followed their usual course, up to the 31st of December an aggregate for 9 months of 244,158 tons only had been reached. Indeed, the total amount of sugar introduced into India for the nine months ending 31st December, 1914, was only 342,967 tons as against 605,302 tons for the corresponding nine months of the previous year, the deficiency occurring entirely in the five months of the war. It is a curious and interesting fact, that India, with an existing sugar output of 2½ million tons—second only to that of Germany—with its great potentialities as regards land and labour, imports three-quarters of a million tons of sugar a year, and when it cannot get the sugar from its usual sources, goes without it.

In the London market American granulated has sold at 29s. 6d., a rise of 2s. on previous prices. This increase has not, however, extended to other varieties. 1594 pockets of brown Mozambique were sold at 20s. to 23s. The market for West Indian crystallised has been dull. On February 26th, 2,347 bags of Demerara crystallised were partly sold at 26s. to 27s., and a few lots out of 820 bags Trinidad syrups at 20s. On the 5th inst. a small quantity of about 100 tons met with a fair demand: 986 bags of Demerara crystallised selling at 25s. 6d. to 26s. 3d., and 150 bags Demerara syrups at 13s. 9d.

In the New York market there was a slight drop from the prices obtaining at the date of last report, duty paid 96° sugars, which were then quoted at \$4.77, falling to \$4.58. A recovery has however taken place, and the quotation now stands at \$4.77, with granulated at \$5.65. The declaration by the Allies of the total blockade of Germany is expected to free a certain amount of shipping for sugar freight purposes, and thus relieve a much felt tension.

The London West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to February 27th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Imports	7,579	4,781	5,887	2,816	5,900	Tons
Deliveries	6,475	5,023	4,762	5,841	6,101	..
Stock on Feb. 27	7,113	12,364	2,964	1,465	4,517	..

**RUM**—The strong tone of this market continues. The arrivals of Demeraras ex S.S. *Spheroid* are now being dealt with, and those not sold to arrive are being taken up at fully last rates, there being an advance to 2s. 3d. per proof gallon for a special mark. Home-trade Jamaicas are scarce and good quality; dark varieties would fetch high prices. Producers would do well to turn their attention to this class rather than to highly flavoured kinds, which, owing to the cessation of export, are unsaleable at anything like their real value. The home-trade demand has become rather quieter in view of the possibility of further Government restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks.

The stocks in London on March 2nd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica	5,012	5,580	5,951	7,667	8,038	Puns
Demerara	6,379	9,191	8,114	8,600	7,671	..
Total, all kinds	7,127	21,535	21,895	24,200	24,481	..

**CACAO**—A substantial rise has taken place with steadily maintained prices. Sales of good Plantation Trinidad have been made as high as 90s., and of fine Grenada up to 83s. 6d. Other West Indian kinds, although not in great demand, obtained firm prices. A small lot of 44 bags Demerara sold at 82s. The total public sales of West Indian cacao amounted to 3,563 bags for the fortnight, of which 584 bags were Trinidad and 2,350 bags Grenada.

The stocks in London on February 27th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Trinidad	6,989	6,480	2,938	5,648	4,854	Bags
Grenada	4,347	6,762	4,914	12,984	12,638	..
Total, all kinds	49,873	80,037	70,984	113,583	108,315	..

**COTTON**—There has been a better enquiry for West Indian Sea Island, and about 150 bales have been sold, chiefly Nevis 13d. to 14d., and St. Kitts 15d. to 16d., with a few Montserrat at 14½d., and old crop Barbados and Antigua 12d. to 13d. Prices are quite steady. About 150 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton were lost in the *Western Coast*, which was torpedoed in the Channel. Up to the 4th of March, 618 bales of British West Indian had been imported for the year.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Juice.—Raw—Scarce and good qualities wanted at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. for Jamaica, and 2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. for Dominica. Concentrated—Unchanged. There have been no sales to report. Lime Oil—Distilled—A small business has been done at 2s. 6d. Handpressed—There have been no enquiries.

**NUTMEGS**—Unchanged since last report. 100's/80's are quoted at 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's and 140's/120's at 4½d. **MACE**—No alteration. Good to fine 2s. to 2s. 11d., red to good 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d., broken 9d. to 1s. 4d.

**ARROWROOT**—Sales of about 250 barrels have been reported at 2½d. to 2½d. Present quotations may be said to be 1½d. to 4½d.

**COPRA**—Market very steady. Value of fair merchantable West Indian £28 to £28 5s.

**RUBBER**—Prices have improved since the date of last report. Fine plantation is now quoted at 2s. 4½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 5½d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 5d., with soft at 2s. 2d.; Castilloa sheet stands at 2s. and scrap at 1s. 7d.

**BALATA**—Improvement maintained. Sheet, London landed terms, is quoted at 2s. 4½d.; block, London landed terms, at 2s. 0½d. or 1s. 11½d. c.i.f.

**TIMBER**—There has been a considerable improvement in business, and prices have in some instances tended higher. **Mahogany**—Honduras—131,492 feet were sold at prices ranging from 5d. to 1s.; 23,430 feet at from 6d. to 9½d., and 1,940 feet at 6s. to 10s. per cubic foot. Cedar, Trinidad, may be quoted at from 3d. to 4½d. Lignum Vitae, Jamaica, £3 to £7. Satinwood, Jamaica, £4 to £8.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Market unchanged. American is quoted at 8½d., and Water White at 9½d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.4.  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.  
March 22nd, 1915

### SUGAR AND THE WAR.

THE answers given by Ministers to questions in the House of Commons make it clear that the Government consider their pledge of 1912, to adhere to the fundamental principles of the Brussels Convention and not to give a preference to our Colonial sugar over foreign sugar, still binding. The attitude of the Government towards the question of aniline dyes, which in many respects is analogous to that of sugar does not afford much hope of which we have been mainly dependent on Germany and Austria being safeguarded from foreign competition for a definite period after the war. But the war must bring in its wake many changes, and it is inconceivable that sugar using trades will be content to rely upon Germany and Austria for the bulk of their raw material. They should be among the first to advocate the development of a British sugar industry. The question of a preference for British sugar must when peace is restored once more enter the region of practical politics. We always took exception to the Protocol to the Convention which precluded us from giving a preference to the colonies, and while it is some satisfaction

that the British Government can alter their policy in this respect on giving six months notice, we should like to see the slate wiped clean and our complete liberty of action restored. In this connection a letter from MR. GEORGES DUREAU, the esteemed Editor of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, published in the *International Sugar Journal* for March is of interest. This well-known authority holds the opinion that the Brussels agreement has lost all practical value owing to the war, and that it would be advantageous if France and Belgium would declare it null and void. In support of this view he states that if the Allies prove victorious—as to which we can admit no doubt—in the event of the Convention still existing it would be impossible for them to modify the sugar régime without the assent of the vanquished Germany and Austria. "Consequently the half-ruined sugar industries of France and Belgium would not be able to claim any compensation by means of sugar legislation. On the other hand, were Germany and Austria-Hungary victorious, then in that event these two States would assuredly treat the Brussels Convention as a 'scrap of paper' and would impose on the vanquished whatever conditions they pleased, conditions which would almost certainly prevent the French and Belgium sugar industries from flourishing. Far better then would it be for France and Belgium to recover together at once 'full liberty of action' of which the *exposé* of the Motives of the Decree of September 27th, 1914, speaks." With regard to Russia, M. DUREAU holds that that Power has already ceased to adhere to the Convention by increasing her excise duty in spite of the stipulation in Article 2 of the Protocol of 1907 that she "shall retain her present fiscal and customs legislation as regards sugar." We must, however, admit that the change appears to reduce the Russian bounty, which we cannot regard as otherwise than satisfactory. M. DUREAU further gives currency to a report that the representatives of the Russian sugar industry in view of the abundant stocks of sugar held by them, which are more than sufficient to meet the contingent exportation, have approached their Government with a view of obtaining the denunciation of the Brussels Convention, and of being able as a consequence to export freely their surplus production. He adds "the Russian Government are disposed to make the necessary declarations to the neutral States. It is, therefore, to be hoped that in the interests of the French and Belgian sugar industries their own respective Governments will follow the example of Russia, and will hasten to recover in the matter of sugar their full liberty of action."

That the Convention has served its purpose must be admitted on all sides. It has secured the abolition of the great foreign bounties which are unlikely ever to be revived. Should there ever be a recrudescence of the system, the bounties must be met by countervailing duties and we cannot believe that Germany and Austria will ever again be allowed to wage war on our industries and ruin our trade by dumping their products on our markets below the cost of production. Meanwhile, we should like to see full liberty of action restored to the British Government as it can be on giving six months' notice to the signatories of the Convention. If we may judge from the remarks of M. DUREAU, who is usually particularly well-informed, our present allies would welcome rather than object to the collapse of the Convention.

#### STEAMER COMMUNICATION AND THE WAR.

**I**N December last the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE protested very forcibly against the action of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in cancelling one of the fortnightly sailings under the mail contract, for it appeared that the action of the company was not due to any shortage of ships but merely owing to the voyage not holding out any prospects of profit. The abandonment of the last advertised sailing—that of the *Trent*, scheduled for March 10th—was attributable to a different cause altogether. The ship was almost ready to sail, her crew were signed on, and part of her cargo was aboard when she was requisitioned by the Admiralty. The Company, we believe, offered the *Tagus* instead; but owing to the deplorable trouble with unpatriotic labourers at the docks, of whose behaviour we are heartily ashamed, her inward cargo had not been unloaded, and the Naval authorities insisted upon taking the *Trent*. Though the fact that, while the colonial mail service has to be hung up through lack of ships, six big liners should be utilised for the internment of prisoners of war, seems to point to a lack of business management somewhere, we must put up with the inconvenience without complaint. At a time like the present all members of the community must expect to suffer some inconvenience, and, save in very exceptional circumstances, they can best help their country by suffering it in silence. The Orient Line's contract mail service between this country and Australia has now been reduced from a fortnightly to a monthly one, and there are ample indications to show that if the West Indies were not parties to a mail contract they would be in an unfortunate plight with regard to mail communication. In the circumstances we must be thankful for small mercies.

The position of Jamaica with regard to the constantly recurring problem of steamer communication has been different from that of the other West Indian islands. While the great need of the latter has been mail and passenger facilities, Jamaica's want has been steamers to carry her produce to the

mother country. Since the termination of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service in 1911 this has been a growing need. For passengers and mails there have been frequent opportunities via New York, but the lack of freight facilities has been a constant subject for complaint. The German merchant marine has, we are glad to say, been swept off the seas, and the Hamburg-America-controlled Atlas service—whose pier is being reserved for them by the Jamaica Government—has suspended its operations, although it has received official recognition as an American concern! Since the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ceased to call at Jamaica—finding it impossible to meet the competition of steamers sailing under neutral flags between Colon and New York—the position has become aggravated, and at the beginning of the crop season the planters were practically cut off from the home markets altogether. So complete indeed was the isolation of the island that it was found impossible to ship Jamaica's splendid gift of sugar to the value of £50,000 to the mother country. This difficulty has now, we are pleased to learn, been overcome. At the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Overseas Prizes Committee has offered for the use of the colony the German prize *Thou*, which has for some months been lying at St. Lucia, and this vessel has now visited Kingston, and will, after taking in cargo at Savanna la Mar, sail for this country. While this will relieve the situation for the moment we hope that recent trouble will lead to a revival of the movement for direct communication between Jamaica and Bermuda and the mother country which is more needed now than ever.

#### CANADA AND THE DUTCH STANDARD.

**I**N our issue of 1st December last we drew the attention of our readers to a serious matter which had arisen in connection with the importation of sugars into Canada. The basis of the assessment of import duties on sugar in that country is the polarisation of the sugar, that is, the actual proportion of pure sugar which the sugar contains, as determined by the polariscope. There is, however, an appendix to this principle—a relic of primitive times when the polariscope was unknown and a rough and ready means had to be adopted to classify the sugars for Customs' purposes—viz., the use of one of the series of colour gradations known as the Dutch Standard. All sugars which show a colour less than that represented by a certain standard of colour, No. 16 in the set of colour grades, are assessed at a higher rate of duty than those which are darker than this particular standard. The introduction of the polariscope rendered unnecessary the use of the Dutch Standard as a whole; but the particular No. 16 was retained as a protection for the refiners as a means of preventing raw sugars of a light colour, and therefore suitable for direct consumption, entering Canada at merely the polariscopic

rate of duty. A fresh "standard" is issued every year and the complaint of the West Indian sugar importers is that last year's standard was darker in colour than that of the previous year, and that consequently sugars of the class which had entered the previous year at the lower rate of duty had been assessed on the higher scale. The Dutch Standards are prepared in Holland, and with a view of obtaining some definite information as to the possibility of the variation of the Standards from year to year the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE requested the Foreign Office to enquire into the matter. Elsewhere in the present issue we publish the correspondence on the subject. It will be noticed that in the letter of Mr. E. J. LABARRE, the British Vice-Consul at Amsterdam, it is stated that no variation in the Standards from year to year has been complained of in Dutch quarters. Comparison, however, of the Standards we have seen in this country show distinctly that the No. 16 standard of 1914 was darker than the corresponding standard of the preceding year, and the new 1915 Standard just issued is somewhat lighter than that of 1914. It will be noted, too, that the Standards no longer carry the official imprimatur of the Dutch Government, but are prepared by two leading sugar brokers in Holland at the request of the Netherlands Trading Society. The West Indian Trade Agreement came into force with the 16 Dutch Standard condition existent in the sugar Tariff, and it is not the fault of the Canadian authorities if the Standard alters from year to year. But it is certainly a blot on the Tariff that it retains an element of such evident uncertainty as the Dutch Standard. If the refiners are to receive the especial protection for the purpose of which this archaic instrument is retained in the Tariff, surely it can be done in some manner which will provide a sounder method than that afforded by the Dutch Standard? Until the present Tariff of the United States came into force No. 16 Dutch Standard occupied a similar position in the United States Tariff to what it does in the present Canadian Tariff. Its use has now been abolished by the United States, and the Customs' Tariff based entirely on polarisation. Why should not Canada follow suit?

Mr., now the Rev., C. D. Lalla, a much respected member of the West India Committee, and five other East Indians have recently been ordained ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad to carry on the work of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission which was for so many years conducted with conspicuous success by the late Rev. Dr. Morton and Dr. K. J. Grant, of Halifax, N.S. The ceremony took place at the Susamachar Church, San Fernando, the officiating minister being the Rev. J. S. Wilson, M.A., Moderator. The Rev. Clarence McKinnon, D.D., Principal of Pine Hill Theological College, Halifax, and the Hon. Sir Norman Lamont were on the platform. We hope that the new East Indian ministers may be spared for many years to prosecute

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Executive was held on Thursday March 11th. The members present were Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Chairman, Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy Chairman, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. W. Fawcett and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The following were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Names.	Proposers and Secondors.
Mr. M. V. Camacho (Antigua)	{ Hon. R. A. L. Warneford. { Hon. J. J. Camacho.
Mr. E. Mzumbo Lazare (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Edgar Tripp. { Mr. Randolph Rast.
Messrs. Hall and Hall	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. Ernest Beach (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. M. Fleming. { Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mr. H. J. Taylor (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. M. Marshall. { Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mr. J. W. Kitchin	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. H. Crum Ewing.

The Sugar Preference Sub-Committee reported their proceedings at a meeting on March 4th, and it was decided to forward the resolution adopted on February 11th to the principal Government departments, the Dominion and Colonial Governments concerned and the Chambers of Commerce and to the Press.

A letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated February 25th, on the subject of immigration (see CIRCULAR No. 429, of March 9th), was read and satisfaction was expressed at the prospect of the early resumption of the introduction of East Indians into the British West Indies and British Guiana.

Through the courtesy of the India Office the Report of Mr. J. McNeill, of the Indian Civil Service, and Mr. Chumman Lal, on the condition of Indian Immigrants in the four British Colonies, Trinidad, British Guiana, Jamaica and Fiji, published recently at Simla was laid on the table.

Further correspondence on the subject of the mail service was read.

A cordial vote of thanks to Lady Lubbock for a gift of valuable books on the West Indies collected by the late Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., was passed unanimously.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading

Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

During the year to date 27 new members have been elected, residing in the following places:—

Barbados	...	5	Nevis	...	1
British Guiana	...	4	St. Kitts	...	1
Tobago	...	2	Trinidad	...	1
Antigua	...	1	London	...	9
Jamaica	...	1	Country	...	2

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### On the Western Front.

#### A Striking British Success.

Up to now the Allies have been hampered by the want of numbers and guns. The enemy sprang a surprise on his opponents by the big howitzers, without which he could not have entrenched himself so strongly on the strategical line he has held so long. Now the advantage is coming to be with our side. The first sign of it is the brilliant offensive of the British at Neuve Chapelle, near La Bassée. In spite of aircraft Sir John French was able to concentrate at least two army corps, including the Indians unknown to the enemy. The battle began with a bombardment of guns and howitzers. So terrible was it that it not only broke up the German trenches and defences, but demoralised the occupants completely, burying them by the hundred in earth and debris. Then our men advanced, capturing a whole labyrinth of trenches on a front of 4,000 yards. Their difficulty was to make rapid progress in ground which was like a rotten sponge, and to overcome the difficulties inherent in siege warfare. At only one point was there desperate resistance, at an angle south of the village. Sir John French estimates that, in the battle and counter-attacks of the Germans to recover their lost ground, they lost 10,000 men. The gain is important because it straightens our line where it sagged, and gives control of roads and vantage positions when the time comes for driving the decisive wedge into the enemy's front.

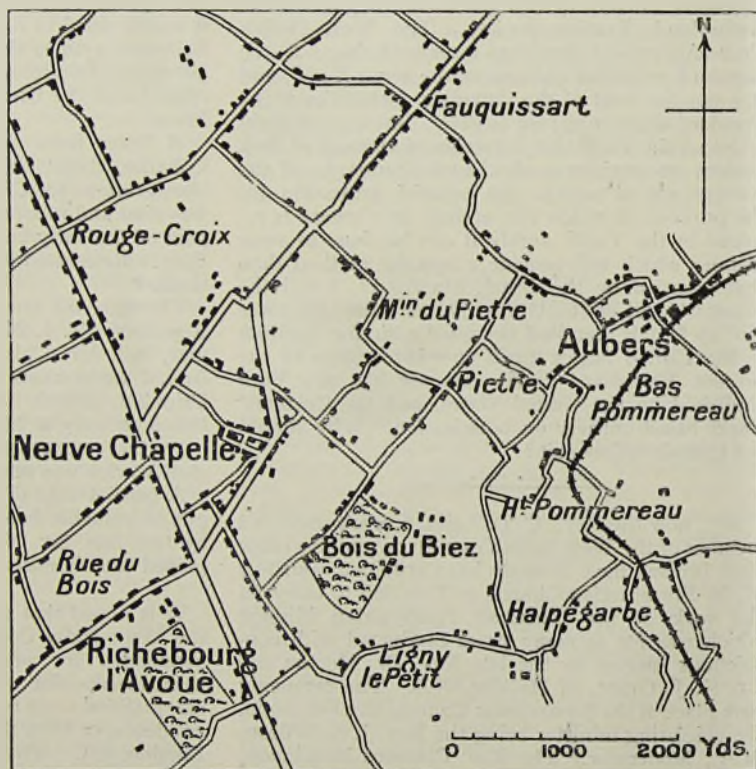
#### French Successes.

This principle rules in the fighting wherever there is

an enemy salient. In the Argonne, for instance, he has fortified Vauquois, an eminence on the fringe of the forest, commanding the valley of the Oise as far as Varennes. On the summit, where the village has been reduced to a heap of ruins, the cellars, which were left, provided shelter for the garrison, and the method of defence was purely mediæval, long range guns notwithstanding. The French held the foot of the slope, and have made four fierce but unsuccessful attacks on the German position. The fifth was, last week, carried to a triumphant conclusion, and the approaches to Verdun are safer than at any time since the war began. Round St. Mihiel, too, the French are pushing their advantage, so that the enemy is merely clinging to the edge of the Woëvre plateau, and in the fighting at Combres they have strengthened their position in Alsace.

### On the Eastern Front.

Once again the Russians are back in Prussian territory. The weather is bitterly cold, and the enemy failing in his attempt to cut the Petrograd-Warsaw railway is prudently retreating on the Masurian Lakes district while the roads are hard. Marshal von Hindenburg's scheme was too compli-



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Neuve Chapelle and the Surrounding Country.



SOME OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE GRENADA VOLUNTEERS.



OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH HONDURAS DEFENCE FORCE.

cated, a mistake made by most German generals in this war. Its governing idea was to drive a wedge between the Russians and Warsaw, and was conceived in the same spirit as the manœuvre which ended so disastrously in the Caucasus. The two masses of men, moving by different routes, had their pivots some 37 miles apart, too widely separated for the carrying out of well-timed attacks in concert. Moreover, the Russian reserves assembled on the left banks of the Narew seem not to have been taken into account. So that when the Germans succeeded in driving back the Russian front line and occupying Pyrasnysz the real battle of Pyrasnysz only began, ending in the retreat of the enemy. His objective was as distant as ever, and so there was nothing to do but straighten his line again.

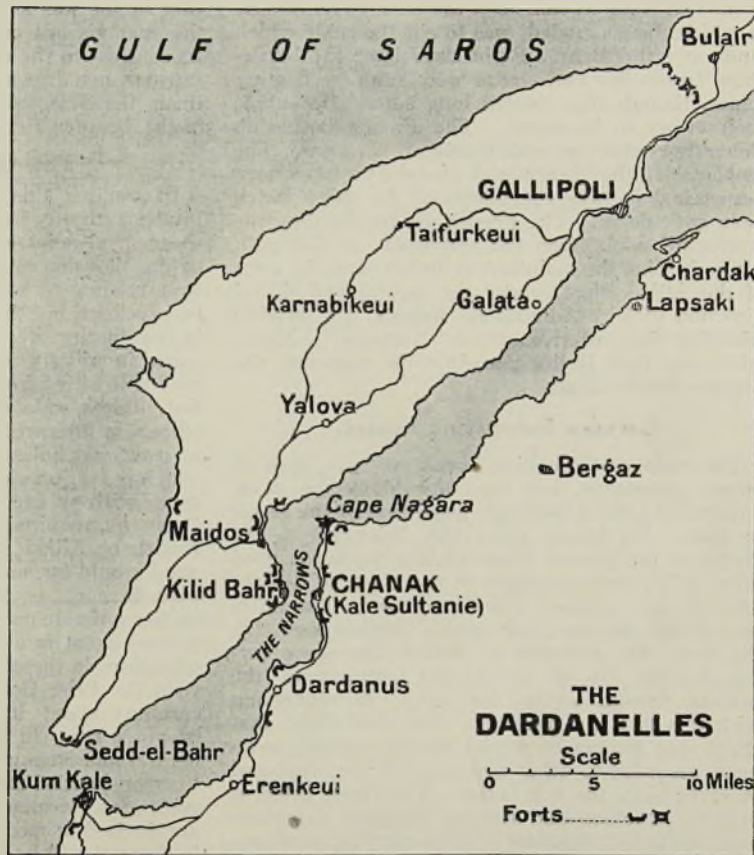
**In the Carpathians.**

Here two distinct operations are in progress, one on the summits of the Dukla and Wyskhoff passes, where it is reported the Austrian centre has been broken; the other in the Bukovina and the valleys of the Pruth and Dniester. The attempt of the enemy to cut off the Russian column advancing on the extreme left of the 700 mile front was met by a violent counter-offensive on the Dalina-Stanislaus line, which ended in the defeat of the Austro-Hungarians. These, unable to save Czernovitz, are now trying to organise resistance on Nadvorna, 25 miles south of Stanislaus. When the Dardanelles are forced, and communication between Russia and her Allies is opened up by sea she will be in a position to throw fresh armies on the Carpathian front to the confusion of the Germanic Allies. At present she lacks the munitions of war to give them driving force. It is his consciousness of the danger that urges the enemy to secure a strong strategical line, and, with continued failure, time is against him.

**War Losses and Commerce.**

Since the 18th of February 27 British vessels have been struck by a submarine torpedo, and twenty-two sunk. The proportion works out at nearly a ship a day. Each day, during the same period, about 700 steamers of over 300 tons have arrived in British

ports and about the same number sailed therefrom. The percentage of loss is, therefore, small. Among the victims were the *Guadeloupe*, which was well known to Trinidadians, and the *Bayano*, which was equally well known in the Jamaica and Central America fruit trade. This ship was taken over by the Admiralty as an auxiliary cruiser, and was engaged in patrol work on the west coast of Scotland. She went down in three minutes after being struck,



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**The Dardanelles showing the Narrows.**

but there was no panic. The discipline of her crew and the fortitude with which they met the catastrophe adds another fine chapter to the splendid record of the British Mercantile Marine. The loss of life was very heavy.

**Forcing the Dardanelles.**

The Fleet engaged in this task has been reinforced, until now it consists of fully sixty ships, exclusive of mine-sweepers. A Naval Brigade was landed at Kum-Kali, the most south-westerly point on the Asiatic shore, to assist in clearing the ground

at the entrance of the Straits. In this way four concealed Nordenfeldts were destroyed. In locating hidden guns sea-planes are doing arduous service, as to attain their purpose, they have to fly low on occasion. To understand the risks they run it is only necessary to record that in one day *Seaplane 172* was hit no fewer than twenty-eight times. The light cruiser *Amethyst* on March 10th steamed at full speed through the mine-field as far as Nagara, and, later on, to Phanar, a dashing exploit worthy of the Old Navy as well as of the New. Her object, in which she succeeded, was to cut the cable which lands at Kilid Bahr. Eight days later the battleships *Irresistible* and *Ocean* were sunk by floating mines, though they floated long enough to enable their crews to be saved. The French battleship *Bouvet* was also lost with nearly all her crew. The *Implacable*, the *Queen* and *Henri II'* have been despatched to take the places of the ships which have gone down. The French are bombarding the strategical point upon the peninsula of Gallipoli, where it joins the mainland at Bulair, and the guns of the Allied Fleet, under the careful and skilful direction of Vice-Admiral de Robeck, are steadily silencing the batteries of the "Narrows." Meanwhile the East Indies Squadron is reducing the Smyrna fortifications.

#### German Submarine Losses.

The claim of the collier *Thordis* to have sunk an enemy submarine, has been upheld by the naval authorities after a thorough inspection of the vessel in dock. On March 4th a ship belonging to the flotilla of the Second French Light Squadron fired upon a German submarine of the U2 type, which, after three hits, dived, leaving no trace. The inference is that she, too, represents a German loss. On the same day a flotilla of British destroyers surrounded the *US* off Dover, and sent her to the bottom, though saving the crew. In connection with this fact the Admiralty have announced that these men are not to receive the honourable treatment accorded to other prisoners of war, captured or saved since the war began. They have acted as pirates, attacking and sinking unarmed merchantmen and firing torpedoes at ships carrying non-combatants, neutrals, and women. Though it may be found difficult to bring home particular crimes to any individual German submarine, it is worth while to make the attempt even if a conviction is not possible until the conclusion of peace.

On March 10th the destroyer *Aviel* sank the *U12*, rescuing ten of her crew. She was only completed in 1911, her maximum radius being 1,200 miles, and her speed 13 knots. So she was well equipped for the task entrusted to her by a desperate enemy—torpedoing tramp steamers.

#### End of the "Dresden."

The *Glasgow*, which sank the *Dresden* off the Island of Juan Fernandez on March 14, met her

adversary twice before, in the engagement off Chili, in which the *Good Hope* and the *Monmouth* went down, and she was ordered by Admiral Cradock to escape, and again in the Falkland Islands fight. The *Glasgow* was accompanied by the *Kent* and the *Orama*, but to her was given the place of honour. Near the spot, which the German Squadron used as a base in defiance of Chilian neutrality to such dramatic purpose, the last of them was destroyed after a slight resistance. There was no disgrace in that as she was as one to three, but the ending of the enemy's last cruiser at large was rather tame. In contrast to the callousness of the Germans, who saw our men drown without moving a finger to help them, the *Glasgow* and her consorts saved the lives of the *Dresden's* crew.

#### The Order in Council.

In framing this instrument of reprisal on the pirates authority has been guided by a desire to meet the neutral point of view as well as the necessities of the situation on land and sea, or so one gathers from reading its various clauses. The reasons may be excellent, but the point should not be overlooked in considering it. The purpose of it is, however, stated in military terms. It is "to prevent commodities of any kind from reaching or leaving Germany." But, unless wide discretion is given to our naval officers in interpreting the Order, it is so drafted as to leave loopholes for evasion. The vital clause which is III, provides that a neutral vessel carrying goods with an enemy destination, or enemy goods, "may be required to discharge such goods in a British or Allied port." But one hoped that the word would be *must* instead of *may*. Then traffic with Germany is, for the most part, indirect, goods for her ultimate use being consigned to a professedly neutral agent in a neutral port. What is to be the procedure in these cases? If the decision is to rest with the Prize Court all is well. But there is no certainty about it. Moreover, the clause further provides that, in circumstances unspecified, both neutral and enemy goods may be "restored" to the "person entitled thereto," for aught we know to the contrary a German. But like other measures which are devised to meet conflicting interests, the Order in Council will be judged by its working. In spite of its consideration to neutrals, however, the United States does not seem satisfied with it. She would prefer a blockade, which would be more difficult for us to maintain, than to exercise the right of search. But we shall hear more about this question yet.

#### The Mobilisation of British Industry.

Lord Kitchener, like all great men of action, has the power of touching the popular imagination when he chooses. He has stated that, for the next two months, he will be anxious with regard to the supply of munitions of war, and invited the co-operation of manufacturers and workmen to meet the emergency in a practical scheme. Up to quite lately Germany has had the advantage of the Allies in artillery.



Then Serbia was hampered by the lack of material when she was invaded by Austria, and Russia could put at least two new armies in the field if she had the necessary munitions of war. The success of Neuve Chapelle is an object-lesson on what may be done by overwhelming artillery fire. Victory is to be implemented in the workshop as well as in the field, or, in other words, the material resources of the nation must be mobilised in addition to its manhood if the war is not to be unduly prolonged. Lord Kitchener has spoken, and enlightened the understanding of many people, who have hitherto not realised the magnitude of the task before us.

### Petrol as a War Weapon.

The French at one point have suffered losses from a fiendish device of the Germans. It seems that, after a fairly quiet day, they were startled by finding jets of petrol directed against their trenches. Whether the power was a fire engine is not known. The order was promptly given to put out all pipes, but the precaution was useless as the enemy threw hand grenades and lighted torches after the petrol, which was soon in a blaze. The troops, their uniforms on fire, were forced to abandon their burning trenches. Some were terribly disfigured, and nearly all suffered in one way or another.

### The Fall of Przemysl.

As we go to Press news comes in that Austria's chief storehouse in Galicia, which has held out since October, has surrendered. It is the most considerable fortress captured by the Allies during the war. A sign of the end was the waste of ammunition, of which 20,000 shells were fired daily before the last sortie, which was defeated with heavy losses besides 4,000 captured. The moral effect of Russia's triumph will be considerable. Moreover, the forces that contained Przemysl will now be released for service in the Carpathians.

*(To be continued.)*

## THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The British Cotton Growing Association write that the West India Committee Map has proved very useful and that they consider it one of the best maps they have ever seen of the West Indian Islands. Messrs. A. & P. W. McOnie, manufacturers of sugar machinery also state that they find the map very useful and that they refer to it frequently.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 3d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below.

- Alexander, Lieut. D., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Ansell, L., (overseer on Pln. Allion, British Guiana).  
 Auld, Captain J. A., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Bradshaw, Pte. Theodore, (of Barbados), The Queen's Own Oxford Hussars.  
 Chill, Captain W., (West India Regiment), Adjutant Prisoners of War Camp, Jamaica.  
 Cran, Major J., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Carrie, 2nd Lieut. A. W., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Davenport-Handley-Humphreys, Captain C., (late West India Regiment), 3rd Bedfordshire Regiment.  
 Deane, George Campbell, (Police Magistrate, Port of Spain, Trinidad, and son-in-law of Mr. R. A. Swan, Senior Puisne Judge of Trinidad and Tobago), Trinidad Light Horse.  
 Dodds, Private John, (overseer Pln. Anna Regina, British Guiana), Coldstream Guards.  
 Dunn, Captain L. S., (late West India Regiment), 19th Liverpool Regiment.  
 Elphinstone, Major L. H., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Franco, Lieut. J. J., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Furness, Lieut. R. H., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Hamilton, Captain John, (of Eastern Potosi, St. Thomas, Jamaica), 2nd Queen's Regiment, the Buffs.  
 Harrison, Surgeon Captain J. H. H., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Henstock, Colonel F. T., (late West India Regiment), General Staff Officer, 1st Grade.  
 Howell-Jones, Major J. H., (son of the late Hon. B. Howell-Jones, C.M.G., and of Mrs. Howell Jones, late of Demerara), Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.  
 Howell-Jones, Miss K., (daughter of the late Hon. B. Howell Jones, C.M.G., and of Mrs. Howell Jones, late of Demerara), V.A.D., Headquarters, British Red Cross, Boulogne.  
 Hulse, Captain L. R., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Matthews, 2nd Lieut. P. E., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Melhado, 2nd Lieut. B., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Meyer, Lieut. D. A., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Morris, Lieut. J. E., (overseer on Pln. Golden Fleece, British Guiana).  
 Nisbet, Captain J. A., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Noott, 2nd Lieut. P. G., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Norton, Major A. E., (late Captain Adjutant West India Regiment), Lincolnshire Regiment.  
 Oppenheimer, Captain H. S., (late West India Regiment), 1st Liverpool Regiment.  
 Piekthorn, Lieut. Kenneth W. Murray (grandson of the late Henry Nanton Murray, of Grenada, and nephew of Mrs. Berkeley, of that island, and of Mr. H. E. Murray, of British Guiana). Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, 15th County of London Battalion.  
 Piekthorn, 2nd Lieut. Charles Murray, (grandson of the late Henry Nanton Murray, of Grenada, and nephew of Mrs. Berkeley, of that island, and of Mr. H. E. Murray, of British Guiana). Army Service Corps.  
 Price, Captain W. C., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Rickford, D. R., (son of manager of Pln. Mara, British Guiana).  
 Ryland, Private H. C., (of Aston W. Gardner and Co., Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Schnarr, Captain H. S., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Slack, Lieut.-Colonel W. J., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Stockdale, Private P. G., (brother of Mr. F. A. Stockdale, late of British Guiana and Director of Agriculture, Mauritius), 27th Canadian Light Horse.  
 Stoylo, 2nd Lieut., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Swan, Lieut. and Acting Adjutant Robert Arthur, (son of Mr. R. A. Swan, late Senior Puisne Judge of Trinidad and Tobago), 13th Battalion Essex Regiment.  
 Swan, Lieut. Arthur Durrant, (nephew of Mr. R. A. Swan, late Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago), Northampton Regiment.  
 Thompson, Private Stanley, (late of Jamaica), 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.  
 Usher, 2nd Lieut. R. S. P., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Varden, Lieut. S. W., (overseer Vm. Anna Regina, British Guiana), Royal Artillery.  
 Verity, 2nd Lieut. D. J., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Wagner, 2nd Lieut. W. A., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Wilson, Lieut. V. G., British Honduras Defence Force.  
 Wilson, Captain P. A., (late West India Regiment), 3rd Queen's, West Kent Regiment.

### Wounded.

Alston, G. R. G., (son of Mr. George R. Alston, of London and Trinidad), Honourable Artillery Company. Was wounded on March 4th, but has since returned to the front.

### Killed in Action.

CAPTAIN GEORGE EDWARD HEWETT, Worcester Regiment, who was killed in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, obtained his first commission in 1894 and retired as captain from the West India Regiment in November, 1913. He saw active service in Sierra Leone 1898-9 and in West Africa (S. Nigeria) in 1901-2. He took part in the operations in the Ishan and Uha countries, and was in command of a column during the Aro Expedition. He was twice mentioned in dispatches. In November he was gazetted to the 6th Battalion of the Worcester Regiment.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Second Lieutenant Alan M. Ritchie, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, son of Mr. D. Ritchie, late of Aurora, British Guiana, who was reported killed, was, we are glad to learn, only wounded on January 18th.

THE Editor would be glad to be favoured with the names of any of those connected with the West Indies who are serving in the National Guard or other volunteer corps and also in the Special Constabulary.

SIR NORMAN LAMONT, the owner of Palmiste Estate near San Fernando, who has been nominated a member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago will bring to bear on the deliberations of that body the wide experience which he gained in the Mother of Parliaments as Liberal member for Bute from 1905 to 1910. Sir Norman Lamont, who is known to be a staunch advocate of the federation of the West Indies will now have an opportunity of expounding in the Council Chamber the views on the subject which he has already made public in "Problems of the Antilles."

## THE WEST INDIAN DEFENCE FORCES.

When the troops were finally withdrawn in 1905 the Volunteer movement in the West Indies received a much needed stimulus and now there is not a single colony of consequence which has not got its active defence forces eager for a scrap with the enemy. The prospect of their desire being gratified is certainly more remote than it was in the early days of war; but the unexpected sometimes happens, and it is a satisfaction to know that an enemy attempting a landing on any of the principal islands or the neighbouring colonies on the mainland would meet with a warm reception.

The officers of the British Honduras Defence Force and the officers and men of the Grenada Volunteers are typical of the stalwart defenders of the West Indies. The British Honduras Force is under the command of Colonel W. J. Slack. The names of the officers reading from left to right are: Front row seated, Captain L. R. Hulse (Colonial Postmaster), Surgeon-Captain J. H. H. Harrison (Medical Officer), Captain J. A. Nisbet, Lieut.-Col. W. J. Slack, Major J. Cran (Second in Command), Captain D. Fraser, in command of the Mounted Infantry; Captain W. C. Price (Superintendent of the Fire Brigade); second row, 2nd Lieut. D. J. Verity, 2nd Lieut. V. E. Matthews (Royal Scots), Lieut. J. J. Franco, Major S. H. Elphinstone (Attorney-General), Captain H. S. Schnarr, Captain J. A. Auld (Commanding Engineer Company), 2nd Lieut. Stoylo. Third row, 2nd Lieut. W. A. Wagner, Lieut. V. G. Wilson, Lieut. O. A. Meyer, Lieut. and Quartermaster D. Alexander. Last row, 2nd Lieut. B. Melhado, 2nd Lieut. S. S. V. Usher, Lieut. R. H. Furness (Registrar General), and 2nd Lieut. P. G. Noot.

The present Grenada Volunteer Force dates from 1910 when it was inaugurated as the outcome of a meeting presided over by His Excellency Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., the then Governor. Captain David L. Slinger the donor of a Silver Challenge Shooting Cup for competition between Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, took an active part in raising the corps which he now commands. Seated on his right in the group is 2nd Lieut. D. I. Kerr. In 1912 a mounted section was added to the force in St. Andrew's Parish.

When expressing their regret that they could not accept a West Indian contingent for Europe the War Office made it clear that the members of the Defence Forces would be best employed guarding and protecting their own shores, and we shall be greatly surprised if the many volunteers in the West Indies who have given up so much of their time to King and Country do not receive medals as a mark of His Majesty's appreciation of their loyal services.

The R.M.S.P. *Danube* is advertised to take the sailing to the West Indies on April 7th.

## GIFTS FROM THE WEST INDIES.

Owing to the absence of shipping facilities it is to be feared that no more fruit for the sick and wounded can be expected from the Jamaica Agricultural Society this season. It is hoped, however, that the shipments from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee and the Dominica Agricultural Society will be continued. From the former the R.M.S.P. *Ebro* brought 237 cases of oranges and 10 cases of preserves, and from the latter 21 boxes of limes, and from Mrs. Brodie of Grenada 24 barrels of fruit besides a case of comforts for the men in the trenches, and of this consignment 82 crates of oranges and 18 boxes of limes were sent to the Red Cross Society for distribution among the base hospitals in France. A few cases of fruit from Jamaica were also given to the Belgian wounded, and the following is a copy of one of the letters of thanks:—

11 March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

We can not omit to address you our most sincere thanks for the so delicious oranges which we shall eat at the good health of the nice planters!

I heard it is not the first time that you show your sympathy to the Belgian soldiers of the "Scocus"—consequently our double thank.

I think you know all the moral sufferings and the physical pains which the Belgians must endure in the field and still endure in their banishment.

Therefore your kind thought in sending these sweet oranges to make our present life less bitter and more happy!

In the name of all the Belgian soldiers here in the Convalescent Home, I thank you—and I present you our best wishes for the success of all the following orange's crops! and for the long life of the Jamaica Planters!!

VICTOR VAN STEENBERGHE,  
Belgian soldier.

Mr. F. A. C. Collymore has forwarded the sum of £200 collected from the people of Barbados towards the maintenance of the car which was presented recently to the Red Cross Society, and was depicted recently in the CIRCULAR. This should guarantee the upkeep of the Ambulance, which is reported to be doing splendid work, for a period of over six months. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has been advised of all gifts dealt with by the West India Committee and particulars of them will be published in due course in the official Blue-book. A further consignment of cigars purchased by Mr. M. de Cordova with the proceeds of his "Give a Cigar Fund" in the *Daily Gleaner*, have been sent to the Military Forwarding Officer at the Overseas Base. Acknowledgment is due to Dr. Lawrence Jones, who continues to give voluntary help in distributing the fruit, which is becoming a more difficult task owing to the congestion at the docks.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

## THE CANADIAN BUDGET.

The Canadian Budget was passed by the Dominion House of Commons on March 17th, an amendment by Sir Wilfrid Laurier regretting the imposition of an increased tax on British imports having been defeated by 43 votes.

The bulk of the deficit in ordinary revenue is to be made good by increased Customs Duties while money required for war purposes and permanent works is to be obtained by loans mainly from the Imperial Government. Under the new Tariff, for particulars of which we are indebted to the West India Company, Ltd., of Montreal, there is an increase of 5 per cent. ad valorem on British goods, and 7½ per cent. ad valorem on foreign goods (including most of those which have hitherto been free) on all imports coming into Canada, with certain exceptions. The exceptions that mainly interest the West Indies are sugar, cacao, limes, lime juice and tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes), which will not incur the extra rates of duty, whether they are of British or foreign origin.

The main item affecting the West Indies in the new duties will be molasses which has hitherto been on the free list. The molasses islands will certainly not welcome this duty, as with present high prices especially, it will tend to assist in reducing consumption, and the preference of 2½ per cent. will be of little or no value in practice, as far as the better grades of molasses are concerned, there being no competition at present from foreign countries. The extra preference on the lower grades of molasses will meet with approval as it has been contended that the spirit of the trade agreement with the West Indies calls for a preference of not less than 3 per cent. per gallon, the same as on the better grades.

Other items grown and produced in the West Indies, such as rubber, balata, coco-nuts, copra, rice, timber, cassava root, which were previously on the free list will now be subject to a duty of 5 per cent., while the same goods from foreign countries will pay 7½ per cent. An anomaly to which attention has frequently been called by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is thus removed. Trinidad asphalt which paid 12½ per cent under the old tariff will now pay 17½ per cent., while the foreign asphalt is raised from 17½ per cent. to 25 per cent.

A proposal to tax bananas has, in consequence of protests from Jamaica, whose planters thought that it would be setting a bad example to the United States, although Jamaica would be receiving a preference, been dropped.

MR. F. B. SHAND, of Dominica, who joined the R.N.V.R. Anti-Air Craft Corps last autumn, has volunteered for service in the Dardanelles and will leave for the Mediterranean with the good wishes of his many friends very shortly.

### THE DUTCH STANDARD.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Foreign Office regarding the Dutch Standard for Sugar.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

11th December, 1914.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that my Committee have received several complaints regarding the Dutch Colour Standard used by the Customs Authorities in the Dominion of Canada for assessing sugars for duty purposes. It is stated that the number 16 Dutch Standard in use, is much darker than that formerly issued at Amsterdam.

2. I have therefore been directed respectfully to ask if you will communicate with His Majesty's Consul at Amsterdam, and will ask him if he will ascertain whether any change has been made in the Dutch Colour Standard in recent years; and further if he will provide my Committee with samples of the existing number 16 Dutch Standard under official seal.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

The Under Secretary of State.

Secretary.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

(1)

December 16th, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 85) of the 11th instant respecting the Dutch Colour Standard used by the Customs authorities in the Dominion of Canada for assessing sugar for duty purposes.

I am to inform you in reply that His Majesty's Minister at The Hague has been instructed to enquire into the matter, and that a further communication on the subject will be addressed to you in due course.

I am, etc.,

The West India Committee.

A. LAW.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Secretary of the West India Committee, and, with reference to Mr. Aspinall's letter of the 11th ultimo, is directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith a memorandum on the Dutch colour standard for assessing sugars for duty.

Foreign Office,

January 14th, 1915.

Enclosure.

British Consulate, Amsterdam,

January 7, 1915.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd ultimo with regard to a complaint made by the West India Committee with reference to the Dutch Colour Standard for Sugar.

After making enquiries of sugar refiners, planters and brokers, I am able to state the following:

The Dutch (or Java) Colour Standard for Sugar (variously abbreviated D.S. or J.S.) was originally an official standard of colour indicating the various qualities of the unrefined cane sugar. This was used by planters, shippers and refiners of sugar and also by the Customs Authorities because the customs duty on sugar was, in Holland, formerly assessed by the colour, i.e., the degree of purity of the sugar. Other countries levied duty on the same basis, and when the Netherlands ceased to assess its sugar duties according to this method, the colour standard was continued on behalf of the Customs Authorities of such countries and of sugar planters and shippers generally.

The standard colours for sugar are now fixed annually by two leading sugar brokers in this country at the request and under the auspices of the Netherlands Trading Society.

They consist of eighteen grades or shades of sugar contained in sealed bottles, and are obtained by skilful mixing of the first boilings of Java sugar to arrive in Holland. The aim and object of the experts preparing the standard is to make and maintain it as constant as possible; viz., that the shades and intervals between them shall be as similar as practicable to those of previous years. This renewal of the standard is necessary because of the deterioration of the samples indicating the colours in consequence of exposure to atmospheric influences. It has been suggested that this could be avoided by making the standard samples of some unvariable material such as coloured glass, but the trade in general insists on being able to compare sugar with sugar.

It happens, however, that the colour of sugar of one year may vary from that of another in its tint; it is said that the sugar may have a red, grey or yellow tint, and that the one or the other frequently produces the effect of a deeper shade of colour. This may therefore be the cause of the complaints, which, according to the authorities here, are unfounded. No complaints have been received from Dutch firms.

No sample of the colour No. 16 of the standard is obtainable as all the standard sets remaining after their issue (in February or March) are destroyed.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) E. J. LABARRE.

British Vice-Consul.

The new samples just issued bear out the statement that these standards—which it will be noted have no longer any official imprimatur in the country where they are prepared—are subject to variation. The No. 16 of 1915 is very slightly lighter than the similar number for 1914. The use of the Dutch Standard has been given up altogether in the United States, and every effort should be made to induce the Government of the Dominion of Canada to give it up also.

### INDIA'S BACKWARD SUGAR INDUSTRY.

#### Twenty-five years behind the times.

In his opening address as Chairman of the Botanical Section of the recent Indian Science Congress at Madras, Dr. C. A. Barber dealt with sugar and the sugar-cane. With regard to the British Government's sugar purchases, he reminded his hearers that practically the whole of the nine million tons of beet sugar produced in Europe was cut off by the present war from Great Britain, whose imports last year, amounting to over two million tons, came almost entirely from Germany and Austria. He quoted many authorities to show that sugar was an indispensable food, especially to those engaged in violent exertion, and hazarded the suggestion that the action of the British Government in providing the nation with an abundant supply of sugar might have far more important results in the conduct of the present war than was usually anticipated.

While the connection of the beetroot with sugar was of comparatively recent date, it was known to have sprung from a well-known succulent, at present growing wild along the shores of the Mediterranean. The sugar-cane, on the other hand, had not always been closely bound up with the manufacture of some form of sugar, and its origin was lost in the haze of

mythology. But, from the accumulated evidence of philology, history and scientific research, it was usually regarded as most probable that the sugarcane arose from a wild saccharum growing either in Northern India or in the islands of Polynesia.

In the war with Napoleon, the latter, failing to seize the British West Indies, which had acquired such wealth and power from sugar, attempted to ruin them by closing the ports of Europe to their sugar and by granting heavy subsidies to factories in France exploiting the newly-discovered sugar-beet. He, Dr. Barber, had always regarded this action of Napoleon as the result of a most brilliant inspiration, but it was founded in a mistaken idea of the British character. The mistake consisted in considering the Colonies as the cause of Britain's greatness, whereas it had been demonstrated that the converse was the case and it was that greatness which had given them their Colonies. For, when ultimately, owing to the struggle with beet sugar, most of the West Indian sugar producing islands became bankrupt, this had little or no effect on the destinies of the Empire. Other causes, besides the beet bounties, contributed to the hampering of the cane sugar industry. The abolition of slavery was at first regarded as its death blow, but a much more serious effect supervened in the increase of disease, due to the intensive cultivation introduced.

India, from exporting sugar to England, had sunk to the necessity of importing nearly a million tons for her own use—chiefly from Java. Whereas the success of Java was due to strict Government control of the ryots' cultivation, coupled with complete organisation of the industry by the planters, India had only just tentatively commenced real efforts at placing the industry on a safer basis. Great Britain was credited with the desire to be no longer dependant on other countries or their colonies for her raw materials: could India hope to enter the lists in order to supply her with part of her sugar? The answer to the question appeared to be in the negative. India was now at least a quarter of a century behind in the struggle and was only just commencing organised efforts in place of the sporadic and uniformly unsuccessful attempts of the past hundred years.

IMPERIALISTS will welcome the announcement that the world's record for egg-laying has been made recently by British hens. In a four months competition held at the Harper-Adams Agricultural College at Newport in Shropshire, six White Wyandottes laid 523 eggs or an average of 87.17 eggs per bird. English hens are also holding their own in the Panama-Pacific International Contest now being held at San Francisco. A pen of Lancashire White Wyandottes at present holds second place with only four eggs below the leaders, and it is confidently expected that these wily fowls will put on the necessary spurt at the finish and win hands, or rather eggs, down.

## AGRICULTURE IN THE WEST INDIES.

The Reports of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies on its operations during the year 1913-14 in St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis are now to hand, and bear testimony to the steady prosecution of the work of the Department in those islands. In St. Kitts considerable attention continued to be paid to the sweet potato, fourteen different varieties having been experimented with. Other minor agricultural industries, such as ground-nuts, onions, Guinea corn, Indian corn, tobacco and pineapples also received attention. As the result of the cultivation of tobacco from Cuban and Virginian stock, 112 pounds of cured tobacco, at the rate of 600 pounds per acre were obtained, which was to be sold in the local market. No mention is made of its quality.

The experiments, manurial and otherwise, with Sea Island cotton at the Experimental Station at La Guérite were continued. The return from the manurial plots was very satisfactory, being at the rate of 1,150 lbs. of seed cotton per acre. Taking the results of the 10 years during which these experiments had been conducted, no advantage was visible from the use of manures, the "no manure" plots averaging 1,249 lbs. seed cotton per acre, while the average of the whole was 1,289. For the season 1913-14, however, there was an increase of 11 per cent. in the manured plots. No further attempts to produce hybrid cottons were made, previous results having been disappointing.

As regards the main industry of the island, sugar, 11,312 tons were shipped, of which 6,226 tons were 96° crystals and 5,086 muscovado. The working of the new St. Kitts Factory was most successful. Of the canes under cultivation 67 per cent. consist of new varieties and 33 per cent. of the White Transparent. Of the new varieties B147 still maintained its reputation, while the acreage of B208 was decreasing. The area of cotton under cultivation in St. Kitts and Anguilla is recorded as being 2,000 acres and 1,000 acres respectively, and the exports of lint, 345,633 lbs. and 94,372 lbs.

In Nevis, corresponding experiments in connection with the minor industries were made to those in St. Kitts. Fifteen varieties of cane were experimented with, with fairly satisfactory results in some instances. Most of the canes grown in the island were transported by water to the St. Kitts' Central Factory. The area under cotton is stated to have been 2,500 acres, 266,773 lbs. of lint having been shipped for the year.

As in St. Kitts-Nevis, experiments with sweet potatoes occupied a prominent part of the minor industry work in Antigua, and the Report gives the result of 16 varieties grown for 14 years, as well as the results of the cultivation of eight more recently imported varieties. The highest average return was 8,160 lbs. per acre. The selection experiments were also promising well; the return from the selected

plots in 13 instances showing an increase over that from the unselected plots. Interesting experiments with various varieties of cassava were also continued, an average return of no less than 10,815 lbs. per acre having been obtained from the "White Top" variety as the result of six years working.

Cotton formed the subject of special investigation. As regards boll and flower shedding, the conclusions as to the cause were (1) unsuitable soil condition, (2) indifferent cultivation, and (3) actual disease of bolls. As to remediable measures it is recommended that heavy lands should be thoroughly drained, plants should not be too close in the field, and all fallen diseased bolls should be raked up and burned. Further, that the manurial requirements in the particular district should be studied, and that the cotton should be planted early so that it may escape the ravages of the flower-bud maggot.

The total quantity of sugar exported from the island for the year 1913 was 10,139 tons, of which 8,517 tons were 96° crystals and 1,621 tons muscovado. In addition, a considerable proportion of the crop was converted into fancy syrup. The cane mainly grown was the White Transparent, which occupied 4,000 acres out of the 10,000 acres in cane cultivation. The new varieties of cane which won distinction were B4596, B3922, B254, and B6,450. Little or no progress was being made with lime cultivation, but much interest is stated to be taken in the newly started coco-nut industry.

As might be expected, the chief interest in the St. Vincent Report centres on cotton. The new manurial experiments gave contradictory results, the manurial plots, in every instance save one, giving lower results than the unmanured plot. The adverse weather conditions are suggested as the cause. The selection and hybridisation experiments were gone on with, but up to the date of the Report with apparently indefinite results. The amount of cotton shipped for the year was 457,924 lbs., the area under cultivation being 5,006 acres.

Considerable attention was paid to cassava cultivation, and a practical comparative test made of the financial results of shipping dried cassava roots as against cassava flour to Canada. The conclusion arrived at was that when cassava starch was selling at over 2½ cents per lb. in the colony it was more profitable to manufacture starch than to sell the dried roots. During the year 4,327,036 lbs. of arrow-root and 227,206 lbs. of cassava starch were shipped. The quantity of cacao shipped was 213,684 lbs.

The Reports also contained some interesting details as to the administration of the Department in the several islands.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda (5s.; post free 5s. 4d.), are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## ANKYLOSTOMIASIS.

### A Lecture on Hookworm Disease.

(Continued from page 107.)

#### Symptoms of the Disease.

The mature worms, which are about half an inch long, about 40 days after infection takes place, establish themselves in the upper part of the bowel, attaching themselves by their hooked teeth to the lining membrane, and begin to lay countless eggs. These pass out of the body in the stools as such. It is believed that these worms if unmolested, live in the bowels for as long as two years and then die, the patient thus undergoing a spontaneous cure, unless re-infected. This is a very important point, that the eggs cannot hatch except outside the body. A few hours after they are passed out, however, under suitable conditions of warmth and moisture they hatch out minute worms about 1-20th the size of their parents, which grow and undergo moults like those of a silk worm. After about ten days they begin to climb about on blades of grass, etc., looking for a host in which to grow to maturity. The eggs are about 3-1000th of an inch long, i.e., it would take about 350 endways to reach across a penny. If then the young worms are either swallowed, or gain access to the skin, they penetrate into the human body and finally lodge in the upper part of the bowel, where they become sexually mature, and begin anew the cycle of activity above described. In penetrating the skin of the hands or feet they cause irritation and inflammation known as "grown itch" or "chumi kakhajuli," "suddee," "chafvee," or "mazamorra;" and when in the bowels they cause indigestion, pain, fever, debility and anæmia. They also at times cause perverted appetite with earth eating, a practice obviously calculated to cause re-infection. In this country, however, I understand that the earth eaten is frequently baked before being taken, which would obviously kill any worms in it, and I personally think that earth eating is often indulged in to relieve the gnawing pain in the stomach, due to the worms, i.e., that earth eating is the result, not the cause of the infection. It is disputed whether the symptoms of ankylostomiasis, pain, anæmia, palpitation, etc., are due to the worms sucking the blood (and when I say that 1,000 worms, a number often present in bad cases, will suck a pint of blood in ten days, it is easy to understand the anæmia); eating the lining membrane of the bowels, and thus causing inflammation (as they have been proved to do); to the injecting some poison into the human system, or to their bites allowing poisonous germs to enter the blood from the bowels. Whatever the actual cause, the symptoms, when the worms are numerous, are most marked, and certainty as to the presence of the parasites is established by finding the eggs in the stool, under the microscope.

### A Cure Guaranteed.

We undertake to cure practically all who can attend our dispensary. Once cured the preventive measures if effective should ensure that re-infection will not take place. As to these preventive measures, in which we particularly desire your sympathy and assistance as employers of agricultural labour; recalling how the parasites gain admission to the body, they are simple. The eggs develop in damp earth, and enter either through the mouth or skin, therefore, prevention may be summed up in one word, "cleanliness." Water must be pure, fruit and vegetable must be washed or cooked, hands and utensils with which we introduce food into the mouth must be clean, and the skin of the legs and feet must be protected by wearing putties or stockings, and boots, shoes or sabots, or by smearing the feet with tar before going into damp foul fields. If the parasites are not on the ground they cannot get into the water, food, or skin, and therefore the prevention of soil pollution is the crux of the whole trouble. The practice of relieving the bowels anywhere except in a trench, privy, or in running water must be stopped. Ground fouled should be ploughed up and burned, and the fæces must be disposed of in such a way as to kill or remove the parasites.

This is no new teaching, Moses laid down similar rules for the Israelites encamping in the wilderness (vide Deuteronomy, Chap. 23, verses 12 and 13); and I can give you no better advice now if you are placed in similar circumstances. The great law-giver if he did not know about hook-worms knew how to protect the health against them. In this colony there are about 110,000 East Indian labourers and from two to three thousand fresh ones are admitted every year, and yet on the majority of estates not only are they allowed to pollute the ground with their fæces all round their dwellings, but they have no alternative but to do so, no latrines whatever being provided. Where latrines exist it is not uncommon to find them so badly kept that one does not wonder at the people refusing to use them. The creole population have often what is called a latrine, but in them the fæcal matter is not as a rule received into buckets or a pit, but simply lies in a festering heap on the ground, liable to flow far and wide after heavy rains, and always the breeding place of millions of flies, the disseminators of typhoid fever and dysentery. In driving along the beautiful roads about here the breeze, which ought to be fresh and pure from the sea, is frequently tainted by the foul odour of human fæces, reminding one of the lines of communication in a campaign on the west coast of Africa; where the only form of transport for all the stores and equipment of an army is an enormous corps of negro porters.

If carried away by river or sea water in such a way as to be free from risk of pollution of water supply, or fouling the banks or foreshore, this method of water removal of fæces is unobjectionable. The most certain way of destroying the para-

sites is by burning, which can be done in simple incinerators. Disposal in deep trenches or in septic tanks are also safe methods, the eggs not being able to hatch without a free supply of air. Faecal material stored in septic tanks after six months might safely be used for manurial purposes, but I am informed that in the West Indies such material is not considered of much value. In Japan and China, however, human ordure is much prized by agriculturists. I recently read that in the former country with a population of 50,000,000 the material is worth £5,000,000 a year. Simple trenches not less than three feet deep will probably be considered the best mode of disposal here, when the ground water is not too near the surface. If pails be used the material removed from them should be carefully buried at least two feet deep. Recent legislation has been carried out in this colony which will now result in the provision of latrines everywhere.

To sum up, our functions here are, in co-operation with the local doctors:—

1. To discover and ensure treatment for those infected with hookworms.
2. To inculcate by lectures, pamphlets, personal teaching and demonstrations and by inspection the necessity for general cleanliness and abstention from pollution of the soil and of water supplies.
3. To teach the necessity for wearing of suitable protection for the feet and legs in the form of sabots, shoes, boots or tar.
4. To impress upon the coolies and other workers and upon their employers the economic value of our measures.

By this teaching we hope to improve the health of the community, increase their economic efficiency, save the employers from loss, and generally improve the sanitary conditions of the colony, and thus help to reduce the incidence of other preventible diseases, such as dysentery and enteric fever. In our efforts we are merely assistants to the regular medical service of the colony, who have not the time to devote to the exclusive consideration of this one, however important, disease. We gratefully acknowledge the opportunity and the special means placed at our disposal by the International Health Commission for this most important and interesting work.

The ingrained habits of the rural population in the way of soil pollution are very difficult to uproot, and our great hope is the education of the younger generation in the way of using privies and never relieving themselves among the crops and jungle, and in the wearing of boots; which offer the best prospect of success.

In conclusion I would remind you that the campaign against hookworm disease by the International Health Commission was initiated and is being financed by Mr. Rockefeller, the American millionaire.

## LOOKING BACK.

## VIII.—The Mails—A parallel from 1814.

When we were at war a hundred years ago, the dangers associated with the voyage to and from the West Indies were far greater than they are now, and necessitated the merchantmen being escorted by ships of war. Then, as now, there was much irregularity about the sailing of the packets, a subject which was constantly engaging the attention of the West India Committee. At a meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants held at New City Chambers, the 19th day of January, 1814, Beeston Long in the Chair, it was resolved,

“That the Chairman be requested to represent to the Right Honourable Earl Bathurst, and to the Right Honourable the Post-Master General, the irregular and defective supply of Packets which the West India Trade has of late experienced, to the very great inconvenience of the Trade, and to request that means may be adopted for providing a more regular departure of the Packets.”

At a further meeting on February 18th, the Chairman reported that in consequence of the Resolution of the meeting of the 19th ult., he had waited upon Lord Bathurst and had a conference with him on the present deficient state of the West India Packets, there not being any Packet ready at Falmouth for the Jamaica and Leeward Island Mail, the beginning of this month, or for the Leeward Island Mail the middle of the month. Lord Bathurst assured the Chairman that the subject had not escaped his attention, and that he had frequent communication with the Post-Master General, who had stated to him from the loss of Packets and increased demand for that service, they had not been able to supply the deficiency, but they were endeavouring to obtain an increased number of Packets. The Chairman suggested the propriety, in this instance, of a cutter being despatched to the Leeward Islands and Jamaica with the mail of this month, which Lord Bathurst promised to apply for to the Lords of the Admiralty.

On February 22nd, the Chairman reported that since the last meeting he had received a letter from Lord Bathurst, acquainting him that in consequence of his Lordship's application, a cutter had been granted by the Admiralty to take out the Mail of this Month to the Leeward Islands and Jamaica.

The second volume of the Revised Edition of the Federal Acts of the Leeward Islands, by Sir Frederic Mackenzie Maxwell, K. C., M. A. (Oxon), Chief Justice of the colony has recently been published by the Government Printing Office in Antigua. It includes the revised Acts from 1 of 1882 to 3 of 1888. The commendatory remarks with which we greeted the first volume of this work may be applied with equal force to the second, which bears abundant evidence of the care with which it has been compiled.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

An interesting contribution to the chemistry of rice is given by Miss A. R. Thompson in the February number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*. This experimenter shows that while polished rice contains no phytin,—an organic compound containing phosphoric acid,—rice bran contains no less than 8.2 per cent. Organic compounds of phosphorus play an important part in nerve nutrition, and it is possible that phytin is the missing item in the diet of unpolished rice which causes beri-beri.

As a further result of experiments on the effect of lime on soils, Messrs. Hutchinson and MacLennan conclude that caustic lime breaks down some of the organic matter of the soil, as shown by the ammonia formed during periods when soil bacteria are quiescent. When, however, bacterial growth commences there is a large increase in the rate of ammonia production. The returns in nitrogen, as ammonia and nitrate, for each increment of lime applied varies with the character and reaction of the soil and the carbonate content. Carbonate of lime gave less returns, apparently because of its relative inaction on soil organic matter.

The *Tropical Agriculturist* for January quotes some interesting results of some tea manuring experiments conducted in Ceylon in the years 1898—1904. The lesson of these experiments was that phosphatic manures proved to a very great extent a failure. The plot that did best was that manured with a mixture of castor cake, fish, sulphate of ammonia, and nitrate of soda, containing no phosphates beyond those naturally present in the fish. But the most remarkable feature about these experiments was that after the third year a sudden and serious drop in yields took place, with only a slight recovery in the fifth year, which was maintained until the sixth. This fall extended to the control plot, and the cause has been inexplicable.

The abnormal variations of plants associated with the internodes has suggested to Mr. O. F. Cook, the biologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, the term “brachysm;” and that gentleman has recently been paying attention to this structural phenomenon as connected with the cotton plant. With the cotton plant, he says, brachysm is confined to the fruiting branches, without affecting the main stalk or the vegetative branches. Brachytic varieties of cotton usually show other abnormalities of the internodes, leaves and involucre bracts. There is, he says, an increased tendency to abortion of the floral buds, and the blasted buds often remain attached to the plant by reason of the absence of the well-differentiated absciss-layer at the base of the pedicel. Brachytic varieties should be avoided.



**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

We regret to state that Mr. Alan Cameron, of the Nigerian Civil Service, and son of the late Mr. D. C. Cameron, died of cerebral meningitis at Finchley on Wednesday, March 17th.

A MIXTURE of formalin and water, to which a little sugar has been added, is, according to Mr. G. Bertram Kershaw, an irresistible attraction to house flies. In Bermuda he swept up half a dustpanful of flies shortly after some plates containing the mixture had been put down.

SEA Island cotton producers will be pleased to learn that the "hobble skirt" is doomed. Those responsible for the Paris fashions have decreed that skirts are once more to be fuller. This will lead to an increase in the use of laces and other materials made from Sea Island cotton, the finest of which comes from the British West Indies.

Owing perhaps to the dislocation of the mails some subscriptions to the West India Committee from members which were due on January 1st have not yet been received. It will greatly facilitate the work of the Hon. Treasurers if those members who have not already done so will forward their subscription direct or through the Hon. Correspondents. THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR cannot be sent to members in arrears.

To those who realise how devoted Mr. Chamberlain was to his orchids it comes as a shock to learn that his celebrated collection of those delicate plants is to be disposed of. Orchid fanciers are certain to flock to the forthcoming sale of the contents of the late statesman's glass-houses at Highbury, which contain among others many rare and beautiful specimens of orchids from the West Indies and British Guiana presented to Mr. Chamberlain by civil servants in days gone by.

*Caribbeana*, Mr. Vere Langford Oliver's quarterly magazine, has now entered its fifth year, and the index to the third volume affords an indication of the mass of interesting matter relating to the history, genealogy, topography and antiquities of the British West Indies which it contains. Some hundreds of families connected with the West Indies figure in its pages, and there is not a well known West Indian name which does not appear. Periodically we are given illustrations and portraits prepared with consummate taste under the care of the author. The subscription to this valuable work is only 10s. per annum, a sum which must fall short of the actual cost of production.

ON March 14th, while the family were attending Divine Service in London, the Bishop of Barbados

unveiled a Brass to the memory of the late Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, who for so many years took a prominent part in the public affairs of Barbados, in the Chancel of St. James' Church, Hole Town, in that island. It is inscribed

IN MEMORY OF  
FORSTER McGEACHY ALLEYNE,  
OF PORTERS,  
CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE  
AND MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
WHO DIED 22ND NOVEMBER, 1913, AGED 68.  
THIS TABLET IS PLACED IN THE CHANCEL  
WHICH HE RESTORED, BY HIS WIDOW AND CHILDREN.

A leading Boston (U.S.A.) practitioner is a warm advocate of sugar as an antidote to alcoholism. The richest ice cream and plenty of the finest chocolates he considers constitute an ideal cure for delirium tremens, and to the man who has been on a lengthened spree, the best cure is to give him chocolates and ice cream and thus coat his stomach. The Boston doctor's theory is original. When he takes the sugar he forms alcohol out of it, and the alcohol thus formed neutralises the alcohol already in the blood, and quiets his nerves. This theory rather savours of the medicine man of the middle ages. There is, however, one incontrovertible fact in connection with alcohol and sugar, and that is that the alcoholic rarely takes sugar, and that the abstainer generally does in huge quantities. Further, when a man accustomed to drink gives it up he invariably takes to sugar.

MR. M. S. BESONI, of Venezuela, considers that the life of a banana plantation can be extended for several years by allowing all prunings and mowings, with the exception of certain harmful weeds and grasses, to rot on the ground, thus forming a mulch and adding to the organic material in the soil.

THE degree to which nature follows mathematical laws is hardly appreciated. It has been shown that the growth of children coincides what is known as a logarithmic curve, while it has also been demonstrated that the growth and quantitative relations of the whole organism and its various parts in the white rat and the frog follow the same law. The changes in size and in shape of successively laid eggs, the alteration which occurs in milk flow with age in cattle, and the relation between the number of food units required and the milk yield of different animals are also logarithmic. In the February *Journal of Agricultural Research*, Mr. J. R. Miner deals further with the subject, and sets forth a method of fitting the curves found in biological research by what is known as the "method of moments," in which pages of abstruse mathematical complexities are brought to bear on the subject of the daily yield of cows.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE immensity of the struggle confronting the nation is becoming realised more thoroughly. Public thought is concerned not so much with the precise duration of the war as with the concentrated effort needed to achieve our end. The urgent need of munitions is paramount for the moment. Men may enlist in their thousands and tens of thousands, but unless they can be armed quickly and adequately the work of the recruiting offices will have been in vain.

It is this consideration which has impelled the Government to seek fresh powers. The House of Commons has now authorised the Executive to assume control of all factories capable of turning out munitions of war. This means not merely that all existing works will be utilised to the full, but that all factories which may be lying idle for want of capital will be brought into the scheme. The experts in charge of such works will not be replaced by Government officials, but the execution of contracts will be conducted under the supreme control of the Cabinet.

THE co-operation of masters and men is indeed essential. It is being impressed on employers and employed alike that their private interests must give place to the national welfare. The aim of the masters must not be the making of vast profits; the workman must not work just when he pleases. Grievances may arise, but work must continue while they are being disposed of. Such was the burden of a speech delivered last week by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Lloyd George showed that thousands of lives may be saved, and the war shortened by the incessant feeding of the artillery with shells. The Battle of Neuve Chapelle illustrated his argument.

WOMEN, too, will find ample scope for their energies. Hitherto we have heard of their work chiefly in connection with nursing, and when our decisive advance takes place, and the number of the wounded increases, we shall need more nurses than ever. The Government, however, are anxious that women shall register themselves for employment in other callings—industrial, agricultural, and the like—which must suffer by the withdrawal of so many men. The openings thus presented cannot fail to be of the greatest blessing to the other sex. The soldier's wife provided with occupation will be freed from the temptations of too much spare time, and from lapsing into melancholy.

HITHERTO St. Patrick's Day has interested the general public chiefly because of the distribution of shamrock to the Irish Guards. This year we are all wearing shamrock. The Countess of Limerick hit upon the idea of having it sold in the streets in

aid of the scheme which provides free refreshments to our soldiers at Victoria Station. The returning warrior, frequently cold and hungry, is now made happy on arrival at Victoria by a plentiful supply of tea and coffee and other refreshments.

SHALL racing be continued or not? Eloquent pens have been busy debating this question, for and against, in the columns of *The Times*. The "pros" have been well nigh as numerous as the "cons." Now the Jockey Club has taken up the matter. Even they have arrived at no clear cut decision. As regards race meetings in general, a sort of local option is instituted. The meetings at Epsom and Ascot apparently are to be held as usual, but this time for racing purposes only. The social side will not be in evidence, and there will be no visit by the King and Queen.

A NAVAL loss of some importance has deprived the country of the services of a vessel well known in West Indian circles, and caused the loss of some 200 valuable lives. This vessel was the auxiliary cruiser *Bayano*, which has been torpedoed off the West Coast of Scotland. The *Bayano* was one of the "banana" fleet trading between Central America and this country.

It is well recognised that after the war the relations between England and France and Belgium must be much closer than ever before. It will be a state not merely of friendship but of fraternity. Already there are signs and tokens of this closer bond. Thousands of Belgian children are being taught in our schools, and those who dream dreams of the brotherhood of nations welcome the spectacle of the rising generation of the two countries learning to know each other at the most impressionable age. Incidentally the study of languages will be greatly helped.

LORD HAREWOOD's second son, the Hon. Edward Lascelles has been married to Miss Joan Eleanor Campbell Balfour, second daughter of Lady Frances Balfour, and the late Colonel Balfour. The bride was given away by her uncle, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour. Viscount Lascelles attended his brother as best man. Among those present were Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), the Speaker and Mrs. Lowther, Lord and Lady Harewood, Mrs. and Miss Asquith, and many other distinguished members of English Society. The bridegroom is leaving for the front shortly.

SIR SAMUEL HOARE, whose family have been so long represented on the directorate of the Colonial Bank, who died in January, aged 73, left unsettled property of the gross value of £151,877, with net personalty £84,433. Lieut.-General Sir George Bryan Milman, K.C.B., for nearly 40 years major of the Tower of London, left £32,969.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### The Sugar Prohibition and Forward Contracts.

Sugar engaged the attention of the House of Commons during question time on March 10th. Mr. Hogge asked the Prime Minister whether, as chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Food Supplies and Prices, he had received any communication from sugar-using manufacturers complaining that their inability to make forward contracts for sugar, at prices substantially below those asked by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, was handicapping them, and must involve them in heavy losses; and whether he would impress upon the Royal Commission the importance of ending immediately the uncertainty which prevailed. The hon. Member further asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, the Debate on the Government's sugar policy having been postponed until after the Easter Recess, the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply had yet come to any decision as to allowing manufacturers to make forward contracts for sugar; and if he was aware that the delay in regard to this matter was prejudicing the interests of various trades, preventing them from making arrangements for the future, and rendering them liable eventually to losses.

Mr. McKenna, in reply, said: Neither the Government nor the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply can give any positive assurance as to what the position of sugar may be in the autumn. There is nothing to prevent sugar-using manufacturers from making any forward contracts they can, subject to the prohibition of the importation of sugar being removed before the autumn or to their obtaining licences to import should the prohibition be then still in force. If, on the contrary, they prefer to trust to obtaining supplies from the Commission, the Commission has every reason to hope that the prices it will be charging in the autumn (if it be then still in being) will not be in excess of those now prevailing.

Mr. Hogge asked why it was that sugar, which was the only commodity of which the Government had taken control, was the one commodity which had risen higher in price than any other.

Mr. McKenna: No, Sir; my hon. Friend is mistaken in assuming sugar has risen higher than any other commodity. As a matter of fact, sugar before the Government took control of it—that is to say, in the early days of the War—rose 80 per cent., and it is the only commodity which has fallen in price since the first week of the War.

Replying to a further question from Mr. Hogge Mr. McKenna said: I think if my hon. Friend will look at the wholesale prices of wheat and sugar, he will find that the wholesale price of sugar has not risen quite as much as the price of wheat.

Mr. Chamberlain: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether any licences for the importation of sugar have already been given, and if so, whether he will, in the form of a printed answer or otherwise, supply the information to the House?

Mr. McKenna: Licences have only been given in respect of pre-war contracts, and in respect of contracts which were so near completion at the time of the prohibition that it was felt to be a special hardship not to allow the sugar to be imported. There has been no general grant of licences.

Mr. Steel-Maitland: Arising out of the Home Secretary's answer on another point, will he be able to give any assurance that the prohibition on the imports will be removed

by the time any of these contracts have taken place, without which it is quite impossible to make them?

Mr. McKenna: The existence of a prohibition depends solely upon the danger of enemy sugar being imported into this country. We have every reason to believe that in a very few months now, probably in less than two or three months, the danger of such importation will have absolutely passed away, and the moment it has passed away the prohibition will be taken off, but it is quite impossible for me to give any guarantee.

Mr. Steel-Maitland asked the Home Secretary (1) if he would grant a Return, as soon as the House reassembled after the recess, of the purchases made up to that date of sugar by the Government, stating the kind and quantity of sugar purchased in each case, together with the country of growth, the price paid, the dates of contract and of delivery, and any other material circumstances, e.g., whether f.o.b. or c.i.f., whether duty paid, etc.; and (2) if he would grant a Return, as soon as the House reassembled after the recess, showing the quantities of sugar out of the special purchases by the Government to refiners and others sold in each week since this operation was undertaken; and the average selling price in each week obtained for the various classes of sugar.

Mr. McKenna: Subject to some slight modifications, I think I shall be able to give the hon. Member all the particulars for which he asks.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Owing to the delay in the arrival of the R.M.S.P. *Essequibo* from the West Indies, we are compelled to omit the usual extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents. The steamer which was reported to have left Barbados two days late reached Falmouth at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 23rd, three days late, having lost another day on the voyage instead of making good the lost time, which one would imagine she might have done. It is proposed to publish a summary of West Indian news as soon as possible after the delivery of the mails in London, and copies will be sent to any readers intimating their wish to have them.

### BRITISH HONDURAS—Chief Justice Roden arrives.

HON. ALAN DREDGE, FEBRUARY 25th.—There is very little of interest to report from here, everything being very quiet and trade dull. No doubt this condition of affairs will last until the demand in Europe for local timber revives. His Honour R. B. Roden, our newly-appointed Chief Justice, and Mrs. Roden have arrived. The Wireless Station is now completed and can be used for commercial purposes. This installation will be a great blessing to all of us.

### JAMAICA—The Canadian proposal to tax bananas.

Mr. E. T. Cox has been elected to succeed Major Dixon as member for St. Andrews by a majority of 68 over Mr. T. R. McMillan. On learning that it was proposed to impose a duty of 5 per cent. on Jamaica bananas, and of 7½ per cent. on bananas from foreign countries, the Governor cabled to the Canadian Government pointing out that this would be detrimental to the chief item of the colony's exports. The Governor has been advised that it will not be possible to place a loan in England for the sum which the island is entitled to borrow for the Clarendon

Branch Railway, but the Secretary of State has made arrangements with the Bank of England to advance the money.

### OUR LIBRARY.

*The Editor is glad to receive copies of publications relating to the colonies, photographs of West Indian scenery, or of local events of topical interest, and donations towards the Library Fund, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.*

**The Mico College, Jamaica:** Some account of the Mico family, the story of the Mico fund, its diversion to the West Indies, and its latest developments in Jamaica, with a brief history of the College. By Frank Cundall. The *Gleaner* Company, Ltd., Kingston, Jamaica.

Lady Mico, widow of Samuel Mico, a member of the Mercers Company, left by her will dated July 1st, 1670, and proved on December 9th in the same year, the sum of £1,000 "to redeem poore slaves"—these being Christians held in captivity by the Moors of Algiers, who formed a popular object of benevolence in those days. This sum of money must have been judiciously handled for early in the nineteenth century it had increased to £120,000. With the fall of Algiers in 1816 and the suppression of slavery in the Mediterranean there was no further need for special benevolence in the direction chosen by Lady Mico, and in 1827 the Court of Chancery invited Lord Henley, Master in Chancery, to devise a scheme for the application of the money as near the intent of the will as possible. Buxton, Wilberforce's colleague and successor, hearing of the fund, succeeded in securing its application "for the analogous charitable purpose of emancipating the minds of the ignorant newly-enfranchised multitudes in the West Indies." With the assistance of Imperial grants in aid Mico schools and training colleges were opened in many of the West Indian islands and for some years these institutions flourished. In 1847 the Government assistance was withdrawn, and though operations continued for some years in Jamaica, Antigua and St. Lucia, the energies of the trustees have since 1890 been concentrated on Jamaica alone. The Mico College in that island is now a very live institution the value of whose work is demonstrated by the long list of past Mico students at work in Jamaica in 1913; the schools in which they are masters or the other occupations which they are following. The Mico migrated from its original home in Kingston to its present site facing the Marescaux Road in 1896, since which year the buildings have been destroyed successively by earthquake and fire only to rise from the ruins in a slightly modified form. What Archdeacon Bindley has done for Codrington College in Barbados, Mr. Frank Cundall has now done for the Mico, and though the former is an older institution the Jamaica College yields nothing to it from the point of view of romance. The book is fully illustrated, and should command a steady sale, especially among past and present students of the Mico.

**The South American Year Book, 1915:** containing general information relating to the ten republics of South America, British, Dutch and French Guiana, the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands and Trinidad. London: The Louis Cassier Co., Ltd.

A work of this character is not built up in a day and there are few handbooks which could be free from adverse criticism in the second year of their existence as this volume is. But we are pleased to find the sections devoted to Guiana and Trinidad improved out of all recognition. A fine illustration of the Kaieteur Fall commands attention and a sketch map of the colony is not the least useful feature of the volume from our standpoint.

Among other books from the collection of the late Sir Neville Lubbock presented to the West India Committee Library by Lady Lubbock are the following:—

**The West Indies and the Spanish Main.** By Anthony Trollope. London, 1859.

**Flora of the British West Indian Islands.** By A. H. R. Grisebach, M.D., F.L.S., Professor of Botany in the University of Gottingen. London, 1864.

**The History of British Guiana.** Comprising a General Description of the Colony; A narrative of some of the principal events from the earliest period of its discovery to the present time; together with an account of its climate, geology, staple products and natural history. By Henry G. Dalton, M.D. In two volumes. London, 1855.

**Wanderings in South America, the North-West of the United States and the Antilles, in the years 1812, 1816, 1820, and 1824.** With original instructions for the perfect preservation of Birds, etc., for Cabinets of Natural History. By Charles Waterton, Esq. New Edition. Edited by Rev. J. G. Wood. 1879.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

*The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.*

Mr. A. C. Bancroft, of Stoke's Hall, Jamaica, in a letter dated February 28th, commenting on a leading article in the CIRCULAR of February 9th, which advocated a combination of logwood growers, writes: "The idea is an excellent one, but absolutely impossible to carry out. A combine is like a blockade; unless it is effectually carried out, it is no good. In St. Thomas both the agents who alone purchase wood are large holders of property on which logwood grows. It is hardly likely that they would cut off their nose to spite their face, and join any combine, for, besides being paid for their own wood, they obtain a commission for acting as agents and so do not suffer. If an outside supplier complained, what is to prevent these agents from refusing to buy his wood now? inasmuch as there is no demand for coco-nuts or fruit, if he did not sell a little logwood to help him along where would he be? So his mouth is shut and the advantage goes on. The cry for dyes in England has come to such a strength that according to the papers the Home Government are prepared to advance a large sum to encourage factories for dyes. It would not cost very much for the Home Government to take over the Jamaica factories and to extend and run them to supply the English manufactories. There are two factories in Jamaica, and there is room for more. These factories were inaugurated by, I believe, a clever German I am unable to say what has become of him, but it was an open secret that through his instrumentality and by a working understanding with the American Dye Company, the British dye factories and also that of the French, a dye corner was operated and all export of wood by vessels from Jamaica stopped, or very greatly reduced. I do not blame him or them; I am only sorry to feel that I am bound to live in a colony, the Government authorities of which endeavour to kill all enterprise and energy instead of booming them. . . . If the West India Committee wish to help Jamaica, they could not do it better than by using their influence in this matter of 'dyes' to induce the British Government to take over the Jamaica factories as a Government concern, and deal fairly towards all growers of logwood and other dye woods, as a first measure of mutual benefit to the British manufacturers and us growers."

The new edition of the Pocket Guide to the West Indies (5s. net) includes chapters on British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bermudas, the Bahamas, the Spanish Main, and the Panama Canal.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

**A. Hubbard and Co.**

This private company has been registered with a capital of £30,000 in 4 shares to take over business carried on at Grenada, West Indies, by A. Hayward, as A Hubbard and Co., together with agency in Grenada for Jonas Browne and Son. The objects are to carry on the business of merchants, shipowners, etc., and the registered address is 99, Cannon Street, E.C.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Orissa*, March 25th :-

Dr. A. T. Ozzard	Mr. K. D. Brassington	Mr. F. M. Rousseau
Mr. & Mrs. A. Mahaffy	Mr. G. A. Smellie	Mrs. M. Mactervel
Miss F. Mahaffy	Miss M. F. Smellie	Miss Answorth
Mr. C. Revell	Mr. & Mrs. S. Walker	Mr. J. Gornall
Mr. F. H. Watson	Misses Yarborough (2)	Mr. & Mrs. F. Headley
Mr. V. C. Harland	Canon J. J. Cook Yar-	Col. & Mrs. Bullard
Mrs. W. Sealy	borough	Miss Bullard
Mr. W. D. Inniss		

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Danube*, April 7th :-

Mr. F. Mahaber

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies :-

**British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), March 16th, "Weather dry," (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd.), March 16th, "Weather dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended Feb. 24th, Port Antonio, "Rain"; Kingston "Fine."

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

Latest Quotations.		PRICES
		Mar. 6
Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	83
British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	94
British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	97
Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
The Colonial Bank		5 1/2
7 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		79 1/2
5 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		94
4 1/2 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		98 1/2
4 1/2 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		98 1/2
Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures		100
6 % Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		15 1/2
6 % New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		103 1/2
7 % Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		3/95
Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shates)		par
United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (25c. paid)		par
Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		35 1/2
Demerara Railway Company 7 % Part. Pref.		106 1/2
Demerara Railway Company 4 % Part. Pref.		82 1/2
Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		89 1/2
Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		99
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		75
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		84
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd Pref.		84
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		90 1/2

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Feb. 11, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Feb. 13, 1915	1914
Sugar	9,501	13,671 Tons.	164	689 Tons.
Molasses		518 Puns.		
Rum	835,575	613,833 Galls.	50,687	65,625 Galls.
Molasses, &c.	194	709 Tons.		
Cacao	13,438	19,637 lbs.	634,664	1,136,013 Lbs.
Coffee	29,685	13,270 "	1,691,088	2,239,216 "
Coco-nuts	110,013	288,725 No.	2,813,020	2,863,800 No.
Oranges			560,700	775,400 "
Bananas			446,681	1,029,918 Stems
Cotton			5,031	Lbs.
Pimento			11,992	16,923 Cwts.
Ginger			427	1,192 "
Honey			1,942	14,032 Galls.
Dyewoods			6,118	6,703 Tons.
Gold	8,344	6,490 ozs.		
Diamonds		1,264 Carats.		
Rice	3,102,638	2,828,135 lbs.		
Balata	184,791	136,114 "		
Rubber	230			
Timber	19,293	21,267 cubic ft.		
Lumber	4,550	24,335 ft.		
Lime (citrate of)	413			

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to Feb. 22, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	1913
Sugar	596	202 Tons.	35,267	11,124 Tons.
Molasses	463	165 Puns.	102,697	82,090 Puns.
Rum	468	110 "		
Coco-nuts	768,860	2,352,081 No.		
Asphalt	5,449	7,398 Tons.		
Manjak	53	83 "		
Bitters	1,983	1,641 Cases.		
Coffee		4,000 lbs.		
Crude Petrol	53,540	961,539 Galls.		
Cacao	14,727,600	15,458,860 lbs.	6,945,280	4,697,260 lbs.
Cotton			35	
Seed				
Copra	2,811	674 Bags.	96	91 Bags.
Spice			530,895	408,155 lbs.
Kola			1,620	2,540 "

	Dominica.	
	1914.	1913.
Cacao	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	379,875	336,728 galls.
" concentrated	148,179	156,974 "
" Citrate of	5,191	4,753 cwsrs.
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984	5,370 galls.
" equalled	1,619	1,505 "
Hardwood	82,134	77,903 feet.
Bananas	3,780	4,266 stems
Cocanuts	551,549	448,747 No.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. F. Evans	Mr. G. Railton
Mr. A. F. Anderson	Mr. F. E. Everington	Very Rev. Dean E. Slo-
Mr. F. C. Archer	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	man, M.A.
Mr. E. G. Braddon	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. W. Smith
Mr. A. F. Bratt	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart	and
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke	His Honour Leslie	Mr. J. D. Wall
Lt. Col. W. B. Davidson-	Jarvis	
Honstou, C.M.G.	Mr. A. S. Kernahan	
Mr. I. Carew, "Greylands,"	Ashburton, Devon.	
Mr. E. P. Gladwin, "Homelacy,"	St. Andrews Road, Portslade, Sussex.	
Mr. N. Scott Johnson, 26,	Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.	
Mr. Fredens M. Maxwell, 39,	Kensington Gardens Square, W.	
Mr. H. E. Macreux, Army	and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.	
Mr. H. E. McCulloch, 23,	Corporation Street, Belfast.	
Mr. J. M. McLaree, 1,	Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.	
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4,	Camden Gardens, N.W.	
Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior	Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.	
Mr. Austin H. Kirby, The	Warren, Calabar, S.F.P., Nigeria.	

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Ebvo*, (Commander J. G. K. Charrat), Falmouth, March 6th :-

Miss Lucy Broad	Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Huertas	Mr. A. N. Smith
Mr. C. J. Canepa	Mr. A. R. Leeman	Mr. C. R. Sharpe
Mr. & Mrs. J. Clegg	Mrs. M. Hamlyn-Nott	Mr. J. C. Tarver
Mrs. T. Clement	Miss E. C. R. Read	Mr. H. S. Tindle
Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Gintsey	Mr. W. Sidley	Mr. John Valentin
Mr. A. Gomez	Dr. H. C. Swertz	Mr. A. Wishart
Mr. V. H. St. J. Huckin		Mr. M. Whitehead

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August last. Consols stand at 66½, and the War Loan is quoted at 27/32 discount.

**SUGAR**—Although favourable weather reports have been received from Cuba, it is now generally looked upon as certain that the Cuban crop will be short to the extent of something over 200,000 tons, and this knowledge has had a considerable effect in hardening the world's price of sugar. A new and most interesting factor in the future of the sugar market is the forcing of the Dardanelles by the Allied Fleets. If this movement is successful, an easy outlet to the west for Russian sugar will be provided. The two points which a satisfactory conclusion of this operation will bring forward are (1) will Russia consider the Brussels Convention as rendered void by the war and herself thus free to ship sugar westward to an unlimited extent in excess of the 200,000 tons per annum which the Convention permits her, and (2) if so, will she have the sugar to ship? Russia's 1913-14 crop was 1,750,000 tons. This left her very little, if any, sugar to export westward, after allowing for her own consumption and overland shippings to Persia and Finland. Her 1914-15 crop is estimated as being 1,900,000 tons, which would thus leave her no more than the Convention allowance to ship westward. 100,000 tons of Russian sugar have already been bought by France, and there is, therefore, at the outside not more than 100,000 tons more available to come this way. The Board of Trade Returns for the month of February show that 13,863 tons of refined sugar were imported for that month from Holland, and 2,143 tons from "other countries of Europe." From Java 24,711 tons of "refined" sugar were imported, together with 29,593 tons of raws; from Mauritius 26,731 tons of refined and 9,188 tons of raws; from the Argentine 4,686 tons of refined. Cuba sent in 20,308 tons of raws; Peru 6,955 tons; and the West Indies and British Guiana 9,273 tons. Altogether 148,354 tons of sugar have been imported since the commencement of this year.

In London on the 16th 1,829 bags of Demerara crystallised were part sold at 25s. 9d. to 26s. 9d., and 373 bags of Demerara syrups at 13s. 9d. to 15s. On the same date 1,688 pockets of White Mozambique sold at 26s., and 3,975 pockets of Brown Mozambique at 20s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. On the 19th inst. 1,400 bags of crystallised Demerara sold at 25s. 9d. to 27s. 3d.; 345 bags and 8 tierces of Demerara syrups at 15s. to 23s. 6d., and 4,963 pockets Mozambique mostly sold at 15s. to 23s. 6d.

The London West Indian sugar figures from January 1st to March 13th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	8,165	5,506	6,398	3,204	7,044
Deliveries	7,588	5,943	5,690	6,698	7,227
Stock on March 13	6,486	12,169	2,547	996	4,175

The New York market is stronger than at the date of the last summary, although still in a highly sensitive condition. The price of 96° centrifugals duty paid has oscillated between \$4.77 and \$4.83 and now stands at \$4.83. The value of granulated has also increased and is quoted at \$5.90, as against \$5.65 at the date of the last report. Cuban sugar freights are still in the neighbourhood of 30 cents. Up to the end of February only 20,300 tons of the 250,000 tons of Cuban sugar bought for January-March delivery by the British Government had arrived in this country. There has been no indication as yet of the British Government going into the market again. Messrs. Willett and Gray estimate the Continental beet crop as 7,243,000 tons for the 1914-15 crop as against 8,185,165 for that of the preceding year, with the cane crops of the world at 9,764,200 tons and 9,773,348 tons respectively. The beet crops of the United States and Canada are estimated at 642,000 tons as against 665,305 tons for last year. The total world's production of sugar for 1914-15 is thus given by them as 17,649,200 tons as against 18,623,818 tons, a decrease of 974,618 tons.

**RUM**—The deliveries of Jamaica rum since our last report have been 438 puncheons, as against 149 puncheons arrived. Home trade quantities are, therefore scarce, but about 550 puncheons are expected to arrive shortly by the *Fredensburg*, which should meet with ready sale. Medium quality Jamaica may be quoted at from 38. 3d. to 38. 5d. per gallon. The market for Demeraras is steady, but prices slightly lower, sellers having met buyers in this respect. 984 puncheons have been taken into stock since our last summary, and 852 puncheons delivered, with 2,450 puncheons expected to arrive shortly. Medium qualities may be quoted at 28. 2d. per proof gallon, with good marks at 28. 3d.

The stocks in London on March 13th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	4,723	5,681	5,700	7,394	8,114
Demerara	6,511	10,259	8,459	8,302	7,730
Total, all kinds	11,234	15,940	14,159	15,696	15,844

**CACAO**—The steady position of the market has been maintained and the rates for fine qualities are about the same. At auction sale of the 16th 6,114 bags of cacao were put up; 1,200 bags of Trinidad sold at 86s. to 89s. 6d.; 25 bags of Grenada at 80s. to 86s.; 77 bags Dominica at 85s. to 86s. 6d.; 44 bags St. Lucia at 82s. to 87s. 6d.; 151 bags of Jamaica fetched from 82s. to 86s.

The stocks in London on March 13th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	7,801	6,269	3,561	5,657	5,346
Grenada	7,691	8,701	6,526	10,985	14,784
Total, all kinds	55,478	86,974	78,082	117,452	113,831

**COTTON**—There has been no business to report in West Indian Sea Island cotton. The prices for Carolina Sea Island Cotton are now quite firm, and with any improvement in the war position, a good demand may be looked for. Up to the 18th 853 hales of British West Indian had been imported for the year.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Juice (Raw)—No sales in the absence of offers by suppliers. Good qualities would be worth from 2s. 9d. to 3s. for Jamaica, and 2s. 6d. for Dominica. Concentrated—There is no business to report. Lime Oil (distilled)—Dearer; may be quoted at 2s. 8d.; (hand-pressed) no enquiries and no sales.

**NUTMEGS**—Unchanged—100's/80's 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's 4½d. to 4½d.; 140's/120's 4½d. to 4½d.

**MACE**—Unchanged. Good to fine 2s. 11d.; medium to good 1s. 11d.; broken 1s. 4d.

**VANILLA**—The demand has been quite unequal to the supply. Auction sales on the 11th showed a decline from previous rates of from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per lb.

**LOGWOOD**—Quiet; with a firmer tendency. Buyers have been able to secure supplies from cargoes originally intended for Continental ports, but diverted here, and are therefore well supplied as regards present and near requirements. £5 and £5 10s. can be obtainable on floating terms for logwood and £6 for fustic.

**ARROWROOT**—Business reported under 200 barrels at 2 7/10d. to 3d. Quotations are 1½d. to 4½d., but there is nothing offering at the former price.

**COPRA**—The market has been slow. Fair merchantable West Indian may be quoted at £27 5s. to £27 10s.

**RUBBER**—Only a small business has been done. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 2s. 3½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 4½d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 5½d.; fine soft Para at 2s. 3½d.; Castilloa sheet at 1s. 11d.; and Castilloa scrap at 1s. 6d.

**BALATA**—2s. 3½d. can be obtained for sheet; block is quoted at 2s. 0½d., seller's price.

**TIMBER**—Very little business doing and prices practically same as last summary. Honduras Mahogany may be quoted at from 5d. to 1s.; Trinidad Cedar at from 3d. to 4½d.; Jamaica Lignum Vitae at from £3 to £7, and Jamaica Satinwood at £4 to £8.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Market practically unchanged. Water White is quoted at 9½d.; American at 8½d.

ALGERON E. ASPINALL.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXX.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6th, 1915.

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## The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 0642 CENTRAL.

15, SERPENTINE LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.4.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

April 5th, 1915.

### THE WEST INDIAN LIME INDUSTRY.

**F**OR some weeks past there has been a complete dearth of West Indian limes in this country. This, we gather, is attributable, not, as might be imagined, to the irregularity of the mail service or lack of shipping facilities, but to the unwillingness of the planters to sell at the highest price which the importer can afford to pay. But, whatever the cause may be, the absence of that refreshing and latterly very rare fruit from our markets is much to be regretted, as it must seriously militate against the efforts to popularise it in this country and to render valueless the campaign in this direction which has been conducted at no little expense and some success for the last ten years. From the first it has been apparent that the lime has in the Sicilian lemon a serious competitor, and though most people who are acquainted with both fruits maintain that the lime is immeasurably superior in flavour to the lemon there are several points in respect to which the Sicilian fruit has the advantage. To begin with, the lemon groves are so much nearer than the lime plantations of the West Indies, with the result that lemons can be retailed here at as cheap a figure as three or even four a penny. Then, again, the lemon

keeps so much longer than the lime—a matter of vital importance to the housewife—owing perhaps to its thicker skin, which is, however, economically a disadvantage; and, finally, a regular supply of lemons is maintained all the year round. This last is the most important point of all, for it is useless to expect the caterer to substitute limes for lemons unless he can be quite certain that he will be able to obtain the West Indian fruit all the year round. In limes a summer trade alone, similar to the flourishing one with the United States, will never be built up with England. Our climate is too variable, and the only prospect of business here lies in convincing people that limes are enjoyable whether the weather is hot or cold, and the consumers must be assured that they can get the fruit in winter as well as in summer. But there is much to be said from the planters' point of view. In the winter months there is a natural disinclination on his part to disturb the trees lest the spring crop should be prejudiced. But the most cogent reason which induces the planters to neglect the home market is probably the favourable prices for lime juice. Like the sugar planters, owners of lime plantations are in the fortunate position of being able to export a variety of products. The sugar estates' proprietor produces sugar, and according to market requirements, rum, Molasses, or a lower grade of sugar called second sugar, and the fortunate owner of a lime estate can similarly ship lime juice, or fresh limes, besides essential oil and otto of limes as the spirit moves him. With quotations as they now stand, he cannot be blamed for preferring to ship lime juice to fresh limes. Lime juice is quoted at 2s. 6d. per gallon as compared with 1s. five years ago, and the corresponding figures for concentrated are £18 15s. and £21 respectively. With the allies armies aggregating 12,000,000 men fully mobilised, the demand for lime and lemon juice during the coming summer is likely to be greater than it now is. While in the summer there will, no doubt, be a reduction in the amount of rum consumed, increasing quantities of anti-scorbutic and refreshing drinks will be needed to keep our soldiers and sailors in good health, and in the circumstances it does not require a prophet to foreshadow a continuance of firm prices for lime juice. Still, we hope that the fresh lime trade with the mother country will not be allowed to drop altogether. It will some day be very useful. Limes are being planted not only in the West Indies, but in many other parts of the Empire, notably Africa. Prices cannot soar for ever and the time may come when lime planters will be glad to have other strings to their bow.

## THE HISTORIC FORTS IN NEW PROVIDENCE.\*

IT will be remembered that in 1908 a movement was instituted by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for the better preservation of historic sites and monuments in the West Indies. This was warmly supported by LORD CREWE, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, as the outcome of a circular letter which he forwarded to the various Governors with a copy of a leading article that appeared in these columns on the subject, a list of the places and monuments of historic interest in the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras was published in the series of Colonial reports in 1912. To this may now be added a valuable memorandum on the Forts in New Providence, which deserves more than passing mention. Its compiler is the HON. HARCOURT MALCOLM, K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Bahamas, than whom no better authority on the history of those romantic islands exists. The four forts which form the principal subject of the memorandum are those of Nassau, Montagu, Charlotte and Fincastle, the weather-beaten stones of the last three of which are still standing. Fort Nassau, which dated from 1696, has given place to the palatial Hotel Colonial, whose visitors will not fail to be impressed by the knowledge, now imparted to them by MR. MALCOLM, that below them is that infamous but picturesque pirate Blackbeard's well, which was once in the south-west bastion of the fort, and that it was near by that eight pirates captured by Governor Woodes Rogers—to whose pirate-sweeping operations the colony owes its motto "Expulsis piratis restituta commercia" spent three quarters of an hour singing psalms and then met the fate they so justly deserved, being hanged by the neck till they were dead. Fort Montagu, built in 1741, is still in good repair, and we learn that it is chiefly notable as being the scene of the memorable exploit of COLONEL DEVEAUX of the South Carolina militia in 1783. That dashing young officer, ignorant—at least so he said—of the fact that peace had been declared, equipped an expedition at his own expense, and, after picking up volunteers at Eleuthera and Harbour islands, descended on New Providence with a force of 220 men only, and captured the island from the Spaniards. The garrison of Fort Montagu was caught napping, and DEVEAUX by a subtle ruse soon became master of the island. In order to make the Spaniards believe that he had a large force at his disposal, DEVEAUX caused his men to be rowed backwards and forwards between the ships and the shore. On their way to the shore they stood up, and as they were rowed back to the ship they hid under the gunwales. This plan proved so successful that the Governor Antonio y Sanz was soon persuaded to surrender with all his men. Fort Charlotte and

Fincastle are of a later date, both owing their existence to LORD DUNMORE, VISCOUNT FINCASTLE, Governor of the islands from 1786 to 1788. Fort Fincastle, apart from its history, is noteworthy on account of its shape which resembles that of an old paddle-wheel steamer with clearly defined sponsons, the illusion being heightened by a mast—the flag-staff of the signal station. Some notes are also given of the lesser fortifications with which New Providence once bristled. Most of the old guns have now disappeared and only remains of stonework mark the site of the various defensive positions, making one regret that the preservation movement was not started half-a-century earlier. We are glad to learn that these interesting old Forts are now being carefully preserved, and that in the Bahamas the excellent plan has been adopted of marking with suitable tablets such relics of bygone days. MR. MALCOLM'S memorandum will, we hope, go far towards stimulating the interest in the preservation of historic sites in the West Indian islands where we fear that much laxity is still shown in such matters.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Thursday, May 13th next, has been provisionally fixed as the date of the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee.

It is particularly requested that those members of the West India Committee who have not already paid their subscriptions for the current year will forward a remittance for the amount due either direct or through the Hon. Correspondents, without delay. The CIRCULAR cannot be sent to members in arrears, and punctual payment very greatly helps the work of the Hon. Treasurers.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

During the year to date 27 new members have been elected, residing in the following places:—

Barbados	5	Nevis	1
British Guiana	4	St. Kitts	1
Tobago	2	Trinidad	1
Antigua	1	London	0
Jamaica	1	Country	2

\* "Bahamas: Historical Memorandum relating to Forts in New Providence." By Harcourt Malcolm, K.C. New Providence: *The Nassau Guardian*.



## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### I.—THE OUTLOOK IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Towards the close of last year we wrote to the Governments of the principal British cane-sugar producing colonies to ask what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry in their respective localities.

Some interesting replies have been received. From the following despatch from Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana, it will be seen that, given an adequate supply of labour which could be provided by an extension of the present system of immigration, sufficient sugar could be produced in that colony alone to meet the needs of the United Kingdom. Sir Walter Egerton's despatch is as follows:—

Government Secretary's Office,  
Georgetown, Demerara.  
19th January, 1915.

Sir,

In continuation of my letters dated 2nd November and 30th December last, I am directed now to enclose for your information a copy of a letter dated 7th January from the Secretary of the British Guiana Planters' Association, and a copy of a memorandum by the Director of Science and Agriculture, which latter gives as full a reply as is possible with the information available to the enquiries contained in your letter on the 6th of October, addressed to the Governor, on the subject of the possibility of the expansion of the sugar industry in British Guiana.

2. It will be observed that the actual export of sugar in 1914 was 107,138 tons, and that, in Professor Harrison's opinion, the possible annual crop on suitable sugar lands eastward of the Pomeroon River is not less than 1,000,000 tons, while if the large virgin alluvial areas to the east of the Pomeroon River and between there and the Venezuelan boundary, were brought under cultivation, the maximum total output might reach 2,500,000 tons per annum.

3. It should be remembered that the area available depends on the price of sugar. As the price of sugar rises, lands, which for various reasons are more expensive to cultivate, become profitable.

4. Provided capital is available, and the availability of capital would be practically unlimited if a reasonable certainty existed that sugar prices would remain remunerative, the labour difficulty could be easily solved by immigration from the East Indies or elsewhere.

5. In recent years it is to be regretted that the indents for East Indian labour have been very small, and the scarcity of work has doubtless led to unindentured labour seeking other employment, either in the balata forests, mine fields or on private farms. So long as the interior is closed by the absence of means of communication, the population cannot ex-

pand much beyond the numbers for which labour is available on the coast strip, but if the interior were opened up by a railway and became gradually populated, then, in times of prosperity, when more labour is required for the coast estates, the interior could easily be drawn upon.

6. Moreover, the opening up of the interior would make the Colony far more popular with indentured immigration. But there exists, unfortunately, a great prejudice in the minds of estate owners against the opening up of other lands in the Colony for fear of labour being attracted from the coast sugar estates.\*

7. Some slight inconvenience at first might be felt, especially during the period of the construction of the railway, but His Excellency is certain that the ultimate result would be to increase the labour supply both on the coast and elsewhere.

I have the honour, etc.,

Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.,  
Secretary, West India Committee.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE BRITISH GUIANA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARY, DATED 7TH JANUARY, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 6701 of the 2nd ultimo relative to the expansion of the Sugar Industry in the Colony, I have now the honour to hand you the information required.

1. The Sugar Estates are capable of producing with the existing labour supply 126,000 tons sugar p.a.

2. The land on the Estates that is not cultivated at present, is estimated to give a return of 101,800 tons sugar p.a.

This does not include Government Lands that might be available for sugar growing.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) J. C. McCOWAN,  
Secretary.

MEMORANDUM AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF SUGAR IN BRITISH GUIANA.

#### Existing Sugar Estates.

72,527 English acres, equal to 44 per cent. of the empoldered area (162,139 English acres) of the sugar estates are under sugar cultivation. About 85 per cent. of this is reaped each year, indicating that in round figures 38 per cent. of the empoldered land contributes to the yearly production of sugar. The average production of sugar over the colony during normal years is about 1.8 tons of sugar per acre reaped. On well administered, suitably equipped and satisfactorily financed plantations the average in favourable years may be taken as from 2.10 to 2.20 tons of sugar per acre reaped per annum. On the best estates, such as Plns. Wales, Diamond, and Uitvlugt, in really good years it is higher.

The export of sugar during the year 1914 was 107,138 tons. The British Guiana Planters' Association states that with the existing labour supply the area at present under cultivation is capable of yielding 126,000 tons of sugar per annum. The Association also states: "The land on the Estates that is not cultivated at present, is estimated to give a return of 101,800 tons of sugar per annum."

\* To this statement exception has been taken by the British Guiana Planters' Association.—Ed.

This suggests that given an ample supply of labour the return from the empoldered areas of the present sugar-estates could be increased to in round figures 228,000 tons of sugar per annum.

It is doubtful if, even at present prices, the acreage under sugar reaped each year on the empoldered lands could be economically increased to more than 50 per cent. of their area. If it could be the crop of sugar might be increased to, in round figures, 145,000 tons, the mean yield being taken as 1.5 tons per acre.

#### OTHER LANDS.

(a) *In districts where sugar-cane has been cultivated.*

A conservative estimate of the area of lands well-suited for sugar cultivation in the districts from the mouth of the Pomeroon in the north-west to the west bank of the Corentyne river in the east is 531,000 acres, exclusive of the area already empoldered on sugar estates. Sixty-four thousand acres of this may be at present beneficially occupied by products other than sugar, leaving 467,000 acres available for the extension of sugar cultivation. At the present proportion of land yearly cropped with sugar to the total empoldered area this would give in round figures 177,000 acres to be reaped each year yielding a mean crop of 320,000 tons of sugar.

If 50 per cent. of the area (233,500 acres) were reaped each year the yield would be in round figures 420,000 tons.

If the proportion of the area cultivatable in sugar-cane were similar to that indicated by the Planters' Association as so cultivatable on the empoldered sugar estates the annual possible yield of sugar on it would be increased to 580,000 tons.

The possible annual crop of sugar in districts in British Guiana where sugar-cane has been cultivated could with sufficient capital, labour, progressiveness and enterprise be increased to 446,000 tons of sugar as a minimum; to 565,000 tons if 50 per cent. of the land was yearly cropped; or by utilising the highest possible proportion of the suitable lands for cultivation to upwards of 800,000 tons, which by fully applying modern scientific methods in cultivation and manufacture could be increased to upwards of 1,000,000 tons.

(b) *In districts on which sugar-cane has not been cultivated.*

As far as is known the lands to the west of the mouth of the Pomeroon have never been under sugar-cane cultivation. The coast-lands in the North-Western Districts and the lands along the lower reaches of its rivers which are presumably suitable for sugar cultivation amount in round figures to 997,000 acres. Of these between 5,000 and 6,000 acres are occupied by crops other than sugar-cane. Allowing for horse plots, etc., 990,000 acres are available for the extension of the cultivation of the sugar-cane. The lands on the Pomeroon and along the lower reaches of the rivers in the North Western district are of well-marked fertility and the yields of sugar from them for some years after empoldering and first cultivation may be safely estimated to be at the rate of from 2 to 2½ tons of sugar per annum, or, say, at a mean rate of 2½ tons of sugar per annum. Assuming that 38 per cent. (376,000 acres) of the land were to be reaped each year with sugar-cane the average yield would be 846,000 tons of sugar. If 50 per cent. of the area were reaped yearly the average yield would be increased to 1,110,000 tons of sugar, whilst if the proportion cultivatable were as high as it is estimated by the Planters' Association to be on the empoldered sugar estates the possible yield would be increased to 1,530,000 tons.

In British Guiana the area of easily accessible land presumably well-suited for empoldering for sugar-cane cultivation and at present not otherwise beneficially occupied

situated on the coast-lands and along the lower reaches of the rivers in round figures amounts to 1,620,000 acres. This area might produce if cultivated under the present system of planting 1,292,000 tons of sugar a year; if planted so that 50 per cent. of its area were yearly reaped 1,675,000 tons; or if fully planted in the proportion indicated by the Planters' Association, 2,338,000 tons, which by fully applying modern scientific methods of cultivation and manufacture could be increased to upwards of 2½ millions of tons of sugar per annum.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Signs are many that the war is steadily approaching a crisis. The most significant of them are the firm determination with which the Allied Fleets, in spite of their heavy losses, are endeavouring to force the Dardanelles, the fall of Przemysl, Austria's last stronghold in Galicia, the resolute attack of the British on Neuve Chapelle, the dogged fighting of the French in the Argonne, Champagne, around St. Mihiel, and in Alsace, and the fierce onslaught of the Russians on the Carpathian front. The enemy has lost his initiative, which has passed to the Allies. It will be a long time yet before he realises the position, and meanwhile, the struggle will be continued with a ferocity which will entail enormous sacrifices on every nation engaged in it. To the splendid courage of the German officers more than one "Eye-witness" at the front has borne testimony, and there is no reason to doubt that the moral of the German Army as a whole is good. The stubborn defence of Przemysl for six months and our casualty lists prove that. It is in neutral countries, which were at first afraid of the issue that the steady pressure of the Allies on the enemy is most impressive. They see now that the war can have but one end, the downfall of Prussianism sooner or later. The adverse turn in the military situation is bound to react on the political situation.

### Advances by the Allies.

From the North Sea to Belfort constant nibbling at the enemy's line has made breaches, which he finds it increasingly difficult to plug. The trenches gained by the Allies are nearly always held with the consequent failure of the counter attacks of the Germans. At St. Eloi they hurled themselves in force against our troops when the engagement at Neuve Chapelle was coming to an end, in the belief that, as the farthest point of the British line from that, it would be weakly held. So it was, but though our men were temporarily obliged to fall back, next day they were not only able to recover the ground they had lost but other trenches in addition. The Belgians, too, have advanced in the bend of the Yser River south of Dixmude, and the French north of Arras have captured and hold the spur of Notre Dame de Lorette. Even more notable is their success in Champagne, in making themselves masters of the wooded eminence, which is the culminating point of the Mesnil ridge. From it stretches away the plateau, beyond which is the railway from Mezières



SOME TRINIDADIANS WHO WRAP FRUIT FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED.



A GROUP OF LABOURERS WHO COLLECT ORANGES FOR OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

WILLING WORKERS FOR OUR TROOPS, IN TRINIDAD.

to Monthois-Challerange that supplies the German Army in the Argonne. Hence the dogged fighting in this part of the theatre of war, one side determined to keep, the other to gain, a line of communication so important. In the Vosges the French, after several days fighting, have captured the summit of the Hartmannsweilerkopf, which strengthens their position in Alsace.

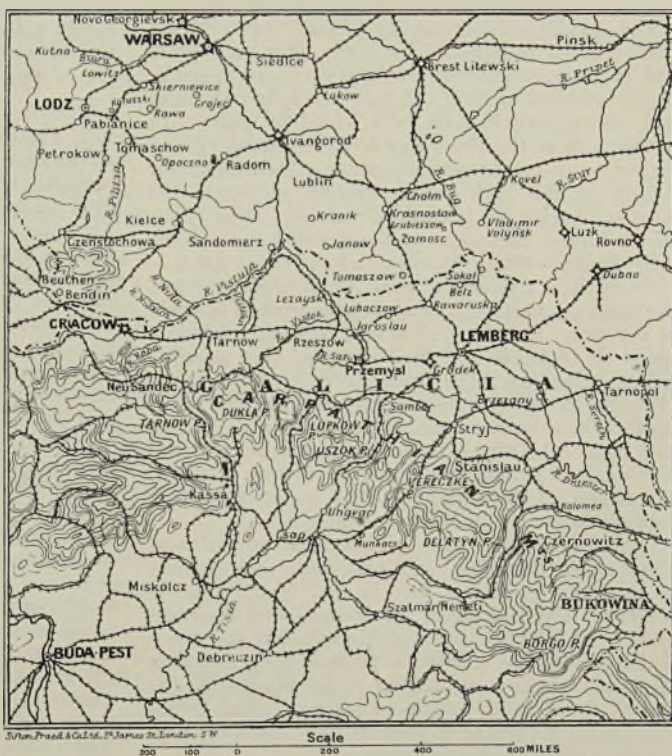
**In East Prussia.**

The Russians, having attacked the Baltic port of Memel and overwhelmed the garrison, the civil population started to fire at them from their windows. Following German precedent, the Russians appear to have burned the town, but there was no massacre, the inhabitants being merely driven out. Thereupon the Germans denounced the invasion of Memel as a violation of the rules of war, and stated their intention of burning three Russian towns, villages or farms for every one of their's destroyed by the Russians. A beginning was made by the German Baltic Fleet, which bombarded the Russian Coast. But military operations in this region will be impracticable for weeks to come, owing to the early thaw, which contributed to the failure of Von Hindenberg's plans. The enemy will probably be able to hold the Russians with his left flank resting on or near the Niemen and his right flank on Augustovo, as he did in October and November last. The great concentration of troops about Pryanysz will, therefore, be broken up by both sides with a view to strengthening their forces in the Carpathians. That there is anything to be gained by the investment of Ossoviec by the Germans, after their costly and futile attacks in the region have petered out may be doubted. Even the big howitzers, which were brought up, failed to reduce the forts, owing, it is said, to the want of properly prepared platforms, and were ignominiously removed.

**On the Carpathian Front.**

By now, too, Germany must realise that she has no hope of breaking through the Russian line on the Vistula in Poland, or on the Drinajetz in Western Galicia. With the fall of Przemysl there will be an end of the alternative advances and retirements in order to reach the San. The Austrian garrison which surrendered with the fortas amounted to about 100,000 men, a large part of them comprising a defeated field army, one of the many fatal mistakes of the Germanic Allies in the war. It appears that the Russian investing forces were not of particular military value, consisting mainly of landwehr forma-

tions, but the importance of the railway which the capture of Przemysl gave to our Ally is unquestioned. The right wing of the Russians can no more be turned than the right wing of the Germans in Belgium, because it rests on the sea. But, unlike the Western front, which rests on Switzerland, whose neutrality is inviolable, the Eastern front rests on the frontier of Roumania, which if the Bukovina is occupied by Russia, will be drawn into the war. To avert the danger of that, and the turning of the Germanic right wing, the Austrians advanced simultaneously through the Bukovina and eastern Carpathian passes. The Russians at the threat to their Lemberg communications were forced to withdraw from the Dukla and Lupkow passes in the



**Przemysl and the Carpathians.**

western part of the range. Since early in March they have been fighting their way back defeating the enemy at Stanislaw. The situation now is that the Austrians are in possession of the Uzok pass and the Bukovina. But, as desperate fighting is reported between Stryz, in Eastern Galicia, and Munkacs, in Hungary, there is no telling when the position of the Germanic forces will be rendered untenable.

**Murder on the High Seas.**

The enemy continue to wage war on the high seas with a savagery which would have disgraced

medieval times. Merchant vessels continue to be sunk without any regard for ownership, the nature of the cargo, or legal forms. The two latest crimes against humanity are of a calculated brutality so revolting that it would be inconceivable as told of civilised men if it were not true. One of the victims was the *Falaba*, sailing to West Africa and carrying a crew of 95, besides 147 passengers. She was torpedoed to the south of St. George's Channel, and sunk in ten minutes, while the passengers and crew were in the act of leaving. There is ample testimony that the crew of the pirate submarine—number unknown—instead of trying to save the drowning men, laughed and jeered at them in their extremity. There were 140 survivors, eight of whom died from exposure after they were rescued by British trawlers.

The *Aguila*, on her way to Lisbon, was sunk off Pembroke, it is believed by U28. Her passengers and crew were shelled as they were obeying the enemy's orders to leave the ship. A lady passenger and the stewardess were both killed by shots. In one day, then, the Huns murdered one hundred and eighteen non-combatants from two Allied merchant vessels on the high seas. Another victim of the same submarine has been the *Crown of Castile* of the Direct Line of Steamers—a vessel well-known in the West Indies—which was sunk off the Scilly Isles.

From the statements of survivors it is obvious that Germany is evolving a cruiser-submarine as quickly as she can. For the U28 is said to have attained a speed of 18 knots and fired shrapnel, her possible radius being anything from 2,000 to 4,000 miles. Hitherto the comparative defencelessness and slowness of these vessels enabled our mercantile marine to remain calm since the enemy began his piratical war against British commerce by means of them. But if several ships like the U 28 are at large their depredations may be a serious matter.

German aircraft, also, attack both neutral and allied ships, dropping bombs on them and showers of steel darts about a foot in length and sharply pointed. The sinking of the *Medca*, after the commander of U28 had satisfied himself that she was a Dutch vessel, has aroused a storm of indignation in Holland, which is not likely to be allayed by the loss of the *Amstel*, which was mined. The Dutch believe that Germany is pursuing a deliberately provocative policy towards them.

#### War at Sea.

"The Admiralty has reason to believe" that the German submarine U29 has been sunk with all hands, no other particulars being given. This pirate ship early last month torpedoed six of the Allies' merchant vessels, all of which were lost, though the commander, Captain Weddingen, did his best to save their crews. He is said to have sunk the *Cressy*, *Aboukir*, *Hogue* and *Hawke*, while in command of the U9.

That Germany is building submarines as fast as she can is merely the expected. One centre of activity in this direction is Hoboken, near Antwerp.

A spirited attack on the place was recently carried out by a British air squadron, consisting of five machines, two of which had to return to their base owing to thick weather. The director was Wing-Commander Longmore, who reported that five vessels were in course of construction on the slips. Upon each of them, in spite of heavy gun-fire, four bombs were dropped, two submarines being damaged, and the works set on fire. In the ascent the British aeroplanes were attacked by enemy craft, and, in pursuing one of them, Flight-Lieut. Crossley-Meates was, owing to engine trouble, obliged to descend in Holland, where he was interned. It is notable that, whereas German aeroplanes act singly with no particular success, British aviators attack in squadrons with excellent results, surely a sign of higher evolution in the adaptation of aircraft to the necessities of warfare.

#### The Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

The pause in the operations here was not unlooked for. Floating mines are being sent down the Straits, whose current is swift, and the Turkish troops have brought up howitzers, which are either mobile, or fired from platforms in the forts already silenced. That the adventure will be carried through is certain, as it is not the way of the Navy to set its hand to anything and then turn back. But it is possible that the co-operation of adequate land forces will be a feature of the operations later on. A large Imperial Army, consisting of Territorials, Australasians, and Indians is being trained in Egypt, and no doubt it is because the Germans realise the danger that the Turkish raids on the Suez Canal were organised. Another of them, as futile as its predecessors, was beaten off on March 22nd and 23rd. Apparently the idea is that, by such means, the British Forces in Egypt are occupied.

Meanwhile a powerful Russian Squadron is trying to open the further gate of the Bosphorus. Its task is at least as difficult as the task of the Allied British and French Fleets, while it has no guns as powerful as those of the *Queen Elizabeth*, and is not able to fire at the forts across a peninsula. The Turkish Fleet consist of two battleships, and the two cruisers *Goeben* and *Breslau*, which were German at the beginning of the war, together with small craft. The *Goeben*, if properly handled, should prove as formidable to the Russian Squadron as the *Australia* to the German Squadron in the Pacific. But both under the German flag and under the Turkish flag her career, so far, has been one of inglorious retreats.

(To be continued.)

The splendid spirit of the young men in the West Indies and their eagerness to get to the front is exemplified by the case of an ex-member of the London Scottish resident in Tobago. Being without funds to pay his fare over he signed on as a "greaser," and worked his passage home in the mail steamer. On arrival he at once re-joined his old unit and is now in the trenches in Belgium.

## GIFTS FROM THE WEST INDIES.

Many hundreds of letters of thanks from hospitals and nursing homes have been forwarded by the West India Committee to the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee and the Jamaica Agricultural Society for their gifts of fruit for our sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, and a batch is being sent to the Dominica Agricultural Society by the next mail.

These letters furnish abundant evidence of the extent to which the fruit is appreciated, and the hope that further consignments may follow is frequently expressed. From the West Indies generally over 5,000 cases of oranges, limes, etc., have already been distributed; but a single shipment of that amount would be insufficient to meet the fortnight's requirements now that the wounded from Neuve Chapelle and St. Eloi have arrived. The secretary of one hospital in Sheffield, while thanking the Trinidad planters, writes:—

We are now serving 600 men, but expect to have to provide for 5,000, and fruit is one of the gifts that our hospital doctors ask for, and which the men most appreciate.

The following letter from Mrs. Reid at Boulogne may also be quoted as typical of many others received:—

I can't tell you how pleased I was to receive a further gift of ten cases of oranges and limes from the Planters of Trinidad and Dominica. They just arrived at the right moment as we had none in the hospital and they are very expensive to buy in Boulogne. We had just had a terrible rush of wounded down after the Neuve Chapelle battle, and they were of course all very ill indeed, as only the worst cases are kept here, the others being sent straight on to England. All the men were crying out for drinks or anything cool, and I had been buying limes for them every day, as they wanted something sharp they said. They love the oranges as they are so sweet and juicy. Very different to what we get here. I tell them all when I take them round that they are a present from the planters of Trinidad and Dominica, and they are always so interested and want to know all about them, and as, luckily, I have been to Trinidad, I am able to tell them. Again thanking you so much for remembering us out here.

The R.M.S.P. *Essequibo* brought 480 cases of oranges, grape-fruit and lemons from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, 17 cases of limes and a case of oranges from the Dominica Agricultural and Commercial Society, 10 cases of fruit and 12 cases preserves for H.M.S. *New Zealand* from Grenada, and yet another case of comforts from Mrs. Brodie, of Grenada.

The contributors towards the last Dominica gift collected by Mr. J. J. Macintyre were Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G. (St. Arment Estate), Mr. C. G. Harris, Mr. T. D. Fillau, Mr. H. M. Hill, Mr. R. E. Alford Nicholls (Alford Estate), and Messrs L. Rose and Company.

Our illustrations depict a group of voluntary workers in Trinidad who wrap and pack the fruit and some labourers on Mr. A. B. Carr's estate bringing in oranges for shipment. These women are giving part of their wages every week to the Assistance Funds.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below.

Archer, Sub-Lieut., R.N.V.R., (son of the late Dr. Archer and of Mrs. Archer, and nephew of Mr. J. J. Law, of Barbados), H.M.S. *President* for service with the Royal Naval Air Service, Anti-aircraft Section.

Braddon, Lance-Corporal F. G., (Formerly of British Guiana), 25th (Frontiersmen's) Royal Fusiliers. *Has left for Foreign Service.*

Bryson, Private J. Maitland, (of St. Mary, Jamaica), 3rd Victoria Rifles, Canadian Contingent.

Burns, Lieut. A. C., (late of St. Kitts, and now in the Nigeria Secretariat), West African Regiment. *Has been on active service in the Cameroons.*

Calder, Lieut. J. T., (Jamaica Armed Mounted Scouts, son of the Hon. J. V. Calder of Jamaica), has received a commission in Kitchener's Army.

Godfrey, Sir Joseph, (late Surgeon-General of British Guiana). *In charge of the Helyms Hospital in France.*

Harragin, 2nd Lieut. W. T., (of Trinidad), 3rd Gordon Highlanders.

Hingley, Major S. H., (late West India Regiment), 3rd Batt. The Duke of Cambridge's Own, (Middlesex Regiment).

Humphrey, 2nd Lieut. W. A., (of Demerara), Royal Field Artillery.

James, 2nd Lieut. Delroy MacGregor, (of Jamaica), Alexandra Princess of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment.

Lawrence, Private Clifford M., (of Brown's Town, Jamaica), 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, Canadian Contingent.

Lawrence, Gunner John, (of Brown's Town, Jamaica), Royal Marines, Canadian Contingent.

Moxley, Lieut. J. G., (son of Dr. C. R. Moxley, Port Antonio, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Musson, Private Eric C., (son of Mr. J. T. Musson, late Resident Magistrate, Jamaica), Honourable Artillery Company.

Oliver, Captain G. L., (late West India Regiment), 4th Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment.

Oliver, 2nd Lieut. Guy, (youngest son of Mr. Vere J. Oliver, Editor of *Caribbean*), Scots Guards.

Parsons, Major, (lately stationed in Jamaica), The Army Service Corps.

Sturridge, Dr. Reginald, (son of Dr. P. F. Sturridge, of Jamaica), Attached to the Red Cross in France.

Taylor, 2nd Lieut. A. G., (son of the late Hon. G. G. Taylor, Custos of St. Thomas, Jamaica), Musketry Officer, 4th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

## Alterations and Corrections.

Hill, 2nd Lieut. C. A., (of the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), 10th Border Regiment. *Has been granted a commission.*

King, Lieut. Berry, (late Jamaica Militia, son of Mr. A. O'Reilly King, of Jamaica), has received a commission in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Lloyd, Lieutenant Clifford H., (nephew of Mr. Mewburn Garnett), late 32nd Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Lieut. Lloyd has been made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and has received his "jacket," being now in the Royal Horse Artillery.

Lloyd, 2nd Lieutenant H. W. C., (nephew of Mr. Mewburn Garnett), 1st Wiltshire Regiment. Lieut. Lloyd has received the D.S.O., and been mentioned in despatches.

Previte, Major H. F., (Member of the Executive of the West India Committee), 22nd (County of London) Batt. The London Regiment (The Queen's). Has just been promoted Major.

Shand, F. B. B., (of Dominica, and son of the late Hon. C. A. Shand, of Antigua), R.N.V.R. Anti-aircraft Corps. Has left for the Dardanelles.

Tengely, Captain J. A. C., British Guiana Militia Reserve.

### Killed in Action.

SECOND LIEUT. R. D. Ford, of the Royal Irish Regiment, who was killed at Neuve Chapelle was eldest son of the late Mr. J. T. Ford of Jamaica.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN HEWITT SUTTON MOXLEY of the 4th Bedfordshire Regiment, who was killed on March 13th, was a son of the late Rev. J. H. Sutton Moxley, Principal Chaplain of H.M. Forces, who will be remembered in the West Indies, author of "An Account of a West Indian Sanatorium and a Guide to Barbados," which he wrote when Chaplain to the Forces in the island in 1886, and of Mrs. Moxley, of Upper Norwood. Lieut. Moxley was shot through the heart as he was lifting a wire entanglement over a parapet in a portion of the line which the Germans had destroyed by trench mortars, and which was only some 30 yards from their line. News came that the next company had lost their captain and that the parapet was blown to pieces, and Mr. Moxley was sent for by the officer in command to superintend the work. He was educated at Victoria College, Jersey, where he took the King's gold medal for classics, and at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he obtained a second class in Moderations and a second in Greats, and stroked both the torpid and the eight. On the declaration of war he at once applied for a commission, and was gazetted on August 15th last.

LIEUTENANT G. S. H. TYNDALE, who was killed at Neuve Chapelle was well known in Jamaica where he was stationed with the West India Regiment.

### Died of Sickness.

PRIVATE JOHN KELLMANN CHANDLER, eldest son of the late Mr. J. K. Chandler of Chimborazo Plantation, in the Parish of St. Joseph, and of Mrs. Chandler, of Villa Franca, Hastings, and a nephew of Sir William Chandler, Kt., died of meningitis at Bulford Cottage Hospital on January 23rd last. He was educated at Combermere School in Barbados. After serving as an overseer in that island, he settled in Montreal, and, soon after the outbreak of hostilities he joined the 14th Battalion Royal Montreal Regiment.

[Copies of the last nine WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS containing in all 880 names, are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, price 1s. each, or post free 1s. 1d.]

THE Combermere School Magazine gives the names of the following Old Boys who have gone to the war: R. R. Lashley, M. O. Roett, C. A. Bailey, H. S. Reece, C. G. Lynch, E. Field, E. D. Kellman, L. M. Heath, R. F. S. Plimmer, J. K. Chandler, A. R. Newsam, J. Taylor, G. A. Swain, O. B. Swain and C. Yearwood. Under the headmastership of Mr. G. B. Burton, M.A., this Barbados school is flourishing. It is to be hoped that the interesting account of the institution which is appearing in the Magazine will be republished in book form. It would be much appreciated by the alumni of the school, which owes its name to Lord Combermere, Governor of Barbados from 1817 to 1820.

## ST. VINCENT ARROWROOT.

### The Report of the Growers' Association.

The annual report of the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' Association for 1914, of which Mr. J. Elliot Sprot is the active secretary, recounts the steps which were taken in consequence of the unwillingness of some of the producers and shippers to maintain the minimum price for arrowroot which had been agreed upon. The Association was ultimately constrained to adopt a system of grading and fixing a minimum for each grade, which was strongly recommended by Messrs. Corrie, McColl & Son as a means of affording the producers of lower qualities Association Arrowroot a fair chance of disposing of their crops under conditions consistent with the principles of the Association. It was believed that this would meet the situation by enabling the sellers of Association Arrowroot to compete with the prices at which non-members' arrowroot was put on the market.

In pursuance of the scheme of classification and grading approved by the Association at a meeting in April, a committee, constituted of representatives of Messrs. Corrie, McColl & Son, Messrs. Paines & Read and Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse, was appointed with power to grade all Association Arrowroot and fix the minimum prices, the standard being Grade E, whose minimum was to be maintained at 3½d. For their services in this particular an honorarium has been paid to them by arrangement. This amount was raised by special contributions of 1d. per barrel of the year's crop by each member of the Association.

This effort drew into the Association several of the growers who had hitherto stood outside; but there still remained some producers of about 100 barrels and less, per annum, who were unwilling to come in. With the advice of the London Committee the Association therefore reluctantly decided, on the 1st July 1914, to reduce the minimum of Grade E, to 2½d. per lb.

### A Proposal to Limit Production.

The Committee recognise the expediency of curtailing production, owing to increasing evidence of a flooded market. Notwithstanding long and repeated deliberations on this point during the year, practically unsurmountable difficulties presented themselves, when members failed to agree as to *modus operandi* of effecting a reduction of crops, without any one producer's interest being affected for the benefit of another. It was therefore simply recorded that limitation of production was desirable; and the unanimous agreement arrived at was "that it would be inadvisable to increase production in the crop 1914-15 over that of the crop 1913-14." It was also decided to regulate shipments, by extending exportation of the crop over 10 months of the year, each producer shipping not more than one-tenth of his crop per month.

The Association is also doing a good deal in the direction of advertising, their product being put up and sold in England and Canada under the trade name "No-wyta."

### THE HEALTH OF TRINIDAD.

#### Fewer Large Spleens than in Ceylon.

Dr. Clare, Surgeon General of Trinidad and Tobago, believes that yellow fever is endemic. In his report for 1913-14, referring to the reappearance of fever at Brighton (La Brea) in November, 1913, he states that this limited outbreak in a locality where previous cases are not known to have occurred for at least 25 years past, adds yet another to the list of those which have demonstrated the obscure and elusive nature of the epidemiology of this disease, and it confirms the belief he has always held (after some considerable tropical experience) in the endemicity of yellow fever and its spontaneous explosion when suitable conditions combine to ignite the spark of *materies morbi* wherever it may lie smouldering and in whatsoever form it exists. Until an absolute clinical test of the disease is discovered—especially applicable to the milder forms that may and probably do easily evade recognition without such a test—our conclusions in regard to sudden outbursts of yellow fever such as that at Brighton must remain highly speculative. Dr. Clare awaits however with hopefulness the results and conclusions of the West African Yellow Fever Commission which is conducting by the aid of trained observers elaborate and comprehensive researches that are quite impossible of pursuit by the ordinary medical practitioner in the tropics. In connection with the Trinidad outbreak, Dr. Clare pays a tribute to the presence of mind and resourcefulness of Mr. Arthur Sewall, President of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, who happened to be in residence at Brighton at the time, saying "to his presence, insight and thorough grasp of the gravity of the situation may be attributed the complete absence of any panic on the part of his staff, while to his initiation of some and his ready acquiescence in other measures that were deemed necessary to control the disease is largely due the fact that infection was confined to a small percentage of the non-immune population and did not extend (except in the case noted above) beyond the Company's property. The epidemic, thanks to the prompt measures of control carried out by the medical staff was happily of short duration being over by January, 1914.

The campaign against malaria is being continued with most successful results. A mosquito survey to embrace the whole colony was begun towards the close of 1913-14, the results of which will be awaited with interest. Meanwhile, a spleen census shows Trinidad and Tobago in a favourable light from the point of view of relative malaria infection when

compared with Mauritius and Ceylon, thus:—

Colony.	Date of Census.	Total estimated No. of children 15 years and under.	Number of children examined.	Number of enlarged spleens.	Per-cent.
Mauritius	1907-08	182,000	31,022 = 17 per cent	10,595	34.1
Ceylon	1908	1,623,766	92,258 = 5.6	31,421	34.05
Trinidad & Tobago	1913-14	119,000	17,495 = 14.7	17,495	17.91

### CANE SUGAR AND BEET.

An interesting correspondence has recently appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* and *Standard* on the subject of the relative value of cane and beet sugar. In the first-named paper the correspondence was an article on the subject of the world's sugar supplies, in which it was stated that beet sugars were inferior to cane sugars for dietary purposes, and in which as a consequence the establishment of a Colonial supply for Great Britain was advocated instead of a British beet supply. This drew a letter from Dr. Bernard Dyer, the well-known analyst, who stated that refined beet sugar was practically the same as refined cane sugar, and that "no chemist or housewife, nor anybody else, can by any process either of observation or experiment, tell which may have been its origin." Dr. Dyer's letter was followed by one from Mr. F. I. Scard, in which it was pointed out that, although chemistry could detect no difference in the sugars, judging from the enormous contrast between raw beet and cane sugar, and from the impossibility of completely eliminating the respective characteristics in the process of commercial refining, some difference must remain between the sugars, and that chemistry was not equal to detecting it. In the same issue a letter appeared from Mr. Barton Scammell, who stated that there was a difference chemically between the sugars, refined cane containing minute quantities of silicon, of the greatest value to children, especially in relation to teeth enamel. Later on A. M. W. "solved the problem" by quoting the lines:—

"From sugar that's beet I advise you abstain;  
It's rightly so called, being beat by the cane;  
But if you want sugar deliciously sweet,  
Remember cane sugar can never be beat."

In the *Standard* the subject came to the front as the outcome of Lord Denbigh's three articles on sugar beet growing in England. Mr. George Hughes wrote in this connection, pointing out the great superiority of raw cane sugars over beet; Mr. Barton Scammell again brought forward the silicon question, stating that the silicon existed as silicon fluoride, and that the fine teeth of West Indian negroes was due to their consumption of sugar, while Dr. Arthur Goulston gave incisive and conclusive evidence as to the value of cane sugar in cases of heart disease. The latter also drew attention to the fact that since the substitution of beet sugar for cane sugar in the United Kingdom and Germany there had been a notable increase in heart disease.



# RATES OF FREIGHT,

*with 25 per Cent Advance  
on former Rates*

FROM

LONDON to the SUGAR-COLONIES,

For the Year 1799.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
<b>B</b> ARRELS of Beef and Herrings - each	0	12	6	Iron Pots - - - - - the Cwt.	0	10	0
of Gunpowder - - - - -	0	13	2	Teaches and Furnaces - - - - -	0	7	6
of Oil - - - - - per Gallon	0	0	8	Kegs - - - - - each	0	2	6
of Beer (N. B. 6 to the Ton)	0	15	0	Lead and Pewter - - - - - the Cwt.	0	2	6
of Tar and other coarse Goods	0	12	6	Meafured Goods - - - - - the Foot	0	2	6
of Floor - - - - - the Cwt.	0	5	8	Mules, by Agreement, according to Size and Value.			
Bags and Vats, filled, the 100 Gallons - - -	1	10	0	Ox-Bows - - - - - the Dozen	0	3	9
empty, ditto - - - - -	1	2	6	Ox-Yokes - - - - - the Pair	0	6	3
Bricks - - - - - the 1000	2	10	0	Oil of Vitriol, Aqua Fortis, and all other very strong Spirits - - - - - the Gallon	0	3	9
Boards for heading Sugar-hogheads, the 1160 Feet	5	12	6	Oil, Jars of, - - - - -	0	1	3
Coppers and Teaches - - - - - the Cwt.	0	8	9	others in Proportion.			
Conlage - - - - -	0	4	5	Puncheons of fine Goods - - - - - each	1	17	6
Cheefe in any Packages - - - - -	0	5	0	of coarse Jiuo, Osnaburgs, Negro- Clothing, &c. - - - - -	1	10	0
Chans, (Mahogany, Walnut-tree, Cherry-tree, &c.) the Bundle, cont. 2 - - - - -	0	18	0	of Beans, Oats, Flour, and Bread, - - - - -	1	8	9
(ditto.) Common - - - - - each	0	12	6	Ploughs, with Wheels - - - - -	3	15	0
Sedan, in Cafes - - - - -	6	5	0	without Wheels - - - - -	2	10	0
Cabinet-Ware, in Cafes, Bureaus, Drawers, Desks, &c. uncafed - - - - - the Foot	0	2	6	Pantiles - - - - - the 1000	3	15	0
Chaises, two-wheeled, with Tops - - - - - each	10	10	0	Plain Tiles - - - - -	1	17	6
two-wheeled, without Tops or Kiterings, - - - - -	7	17	6	Pots, without Drips - - - - - each	0	1	3
Couches, uncafed - - - - -	2	5	0	Drips - - - - -	0	1	11
Coaches, with Carriages and Wheels - - - - -	23	12	6	Passengers, the Ship's Part - - - - -	11	5	0
Chariots, with ditto and ditto - - - - -	18	7	6	Paint - - - - - the Cwt.	0	5	0
Carts, with broad Wheels - - - - -	7	10	0	Potatoes - - - - -	0	3	9
with narrow Wheels - - - - -	6	17	6	Puncheon-Packs - - - - - each	0	6	3
Cart-Wheels, broad - - - - - the Pair	2	10	0	Post-Chaises, as Chariots.			
narrow - - - - -	1	5	0	Stills - - - - - the 100 Gallons	2	10	0
Coals, loose - - - - - the Chaldron	1	17	6	Sugar-pot Hoops, bent - - - - - the 1000	1	5	0
Crates of Glafs, the large Size - - - - - each	3	2	6	unbent - - - - -	0	17	6
others in Proportion.				Sofas, uncafed - - - - - each	3	0	0
round, of Earthen-Ware - - - - -	0	18	9	Smiths Bellows, from 25s. to 37s. 6d. - - - - -			
Firkins and Jugs of Gruts and Raisins - - - - -	0	6	3	Staves, for Sugar-Hogheads - - - - - the 1000	7	10	0
Fire-Engines, from 21. 10s. to 121. 10s.				white Oak and Heading - - - - -	6	17	6
Flag-Stones - - - - - the Ton	1	17	6	Hamburgh, double - - - - -	15	15	0
Fire-Stones - - - - - the Foot	0	0	11	Spades - - - - - the Dozen	0	12	6
Grind-Stones, from 5s. 7d. to 17s. 6d. each				Saws, cross-cut and whip - - - - - each	0	1	11
Hogheads of fine Goods, if very large - - - - -	2	10	0	Tierces of fine Goods - - - - -	1	11	3
of 22 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	2	7	6	of coarse ditto, Negro-Clothing, Oma- burgs, &c. - - - - -	1	5	0
of 20 Bushels of ditto - - - - -	2	3	9	of Beef and Pork - - - - -	1	2	6
of coarse Goods, such as Negro-Clo- thing, Osnaburgs, &c. if very large - - - - -	1	17	6	Trufs-Hoops, for Sugar-Hogheads - - - - - the Set	0	12	6
of 22 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	1	15	0	for Run-Puncheons - - - - -	0	10	0
of 20 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	1	11	3	Tables, and other strong Cabinet-Ware, un- cafed - - - - - the Foot	0	1	8
of Beans, Oats, Bread, and Earthen- Ware, if very large - - - - -	1	16	1	Tallow - - - - - the Cwt.	0	4	5
of 22 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	1	13	9	Vinegar - - - - - the Gallon	0	0	8
of 20 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	1	10	0	Worms, the 100 Gallons of the Still - - - - -	2	10	0
of Coals, and Lime, if very large - - - - -	1	14	5	Worm-Lubs, packed, with Hoops unbent, the 100 Gallons of the Still - - - - -	1	0	0
of 22 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	1	11	3	Wood Hoops, for Sugar-Hogheads, all long, if carried under Deck - - - - - the 1000	6	6	0
of 20 Bushels, of ditto - - - - -	1	8	9	if short, ditto - - - - -	4	4	0
Hoghead-Staves, packed - - - - -	0	6	0	half long and half short, ditto - - - - -	5	5	0
Hampers, the dozen Bottles - - - - -	0	5	0	Waggons, with double Shatts, & broad Wheels, each	20	0	0
Harrows - - - - - the Pair	0	12	6	with narrow Wheels - - - - -	15	0	0
Horses, for Coaches or Saddles, by Agreement, according to Size and Value.				Wheel-Barrows - - - - -	0	13	9
Iron-Ware, in Cafks - - - - - the Cwt.	0	3	9	packed - - - - -	0	7	0
solid, and loose, not in Cafks - - - - -	0	2	6				

London, Sep. 18, 1799.

By Order of a General Meeting of the WEST-INDIA MERCHANTS.

### JAMAICA FUSTIC FOR KHAKI.

The present shortage in this country of synthetic yellow dyes has put considerable difficulties in the way of manufacturers of khaki cloth. A temporary way out of the difficulty was found, however, by the increased use of fustic, a natural yellow dye-stuff, consisting of the wood of a tree (*Chlorophora tinctoria*) which grows freely in Jamaica and also in British Honduras.

The increased demand has now greatly raised the price of fustic, of which at the outbreak of the war, there was only a small supply available in Europe, though fortunately one of the prizes captured from Germany had a considerable consignment on board. A certain amount, too, has been obtained from France, which country and the United States have hitherto taken the bulk of the fustic exported from Jamaica.

When the shortage of yellow dye-stuffs in this country first became apparent the Imperial Institute took steps to place British dye firms in touch with exporters of fustic in Jamaica. Only a moderate amount of cut fustic wood was, as it happened, then available in the island, but, as a result of the Institute's action the Government of Jamaica have offered to purchase from the growers further supplies and carry these at Government cost to Kingston, the port of shipment. Negotiations are accordingly now pending for the purchase and shipment of considerable quantities of Jamaica fustic by dyers in this country. The Government of British Honduras is also taking action in this matter, and a further supply of the wood may possibly be forthcoming from that Colony.

### OUTWARD FREIGHTS IN 1799.

On the opposite page is a reproduction of a table of freights from London to the West Indies in September, 1799, which is not without interest. In the days before the establishment of the mail service and regular lines of cargo steamers, the West India merchants were also shipowners and were in the happy position of being able to control the rates of freight which they settled periodically. Oil-paintings and engravings of the old West Indiamen still adorn many offices. In the year 1799 the War of the Revolution was at its height and "in consequence of the increased price of ships and of every article for their outfit and in order to induce ships to fit out for the West Indies," freights were raised, at the earnest solicitations of several owners, in September, 1799, the increase being £25 per cent. on freight outwards to the West Indies. The new rates did not remain in force for long, the increase being revoked on November 4th, 1801, four months before the Peace of Amiens was signed.

### THE CASSAVA STARCH INDUSTRY.

Mr. E. H. S. Flood, Canadian Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, in a recent report to the Department of Trade and Commerce referred to the new factory erected by the Trinidad Produce Co., Ltd., for the manufacture of cassava starch. This factory is capable of turning out annually 2,000 tons. In recent years increased attention has been devoted to this industry, and, in all, there are now three factories preparing cassava starch in Trinidad, one of which—the Palmiste—has recently come into operation and is equipped to turn out each year 10,000 tons. The difficulty at present is to obtain a sufficient supply of green cassava. There is apparently a large expansion of cassava-growing in these colonies. Each island has heretofore produced enough to satisfy its local demand, but as the soil and climate throughout the islands are well suited to the cultivation of this product, a general feeling prevails that a larger quantity should be grown, and an export trade built up. In Jamaica, St. Vincent, Barbados, and St. Lucia, a considerable quantity is grown for home use. St. Vincent is extending its cultivation and is looking to Canada for a market. Its present export of this starch amounts to £1,287. Jamaica is also exporting a small quantity valued at £1,049. Among the products recommended by the Agricultural Society in St. Lucia for extension is this tuber, and the society is of opinion that an export trade could be created. The fact that starch is obtained at a very low price from the sago palm which grows wild in the forests of the East, has prevented the West Indies from competing. In these eastern forests this palm grows in enormous quantities, but as the forest areas are being depleted and the land taken into cultivation, the price of sago starch is advancing and this now gives an opportunity for the West Indies. As an article of food, cassava has hitherto received less attention in the north than it deserves. Among the natives of Brazil and in the French dependencies, it takes to a large extent the place of wheat. During the next few years it is expected that a much larger supply will be available from the British West Indies.

### THE MAILS.

Owing to the *Trent* having been requisitioned by the Admiralty and to her round voyage having been abandoned there will be no homeward mail arrival before that of the R.M.S. *Oriana*, which is due at Liverpool on May 2nd next.

We have been asked to say as little as possible about the intended movements of the mail steamers, owing to German submarine activities; but reliable information regarding the dates of sailing and hours of posting can be obtained by members of the West India Committee at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## LOOKING BACK.

### IX.—The Navy's Preference for British Cocoa

"At a meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants held at the New City Chambers on September 5th, 1821, Mr. George Hibbert presiding, the Chairman reported that he had applied at the Board of Trade for the purpose of inducing that Board to give directions to confine the consumption of Cocoa in the Navy to that article being the produce of the British Colonies, when it was recommended by Mr. Lack that the Merchants should communicate to the Board of Trade a Resolution or Memorial to that effect."

It was then "Resolved

"That the Chairman be requested to state to the Lords of Council for Trade and Plantations, that it might in some small degree tend to alleviate the distress under which the West India Colonies are at present suffering, if the consumption of Cocoa for the use of the Navy were confined to that article being the produce of the British Colonies, several of which produce abundance and of excellent quality, instead of admitting into that consumption, Cocoa, the growth of Brazil or other foreign Colonies and Possessions, which although it may be sold at a lower price than that of the British Colonies, is also inferior in quality; and that he do therefore entreat of their Lordships to give directions that in future the Cocoa of the British Colonies only be purchased for the use of the British Navy or any other branches of His Majesty's Service, in conformity with that principle, which has caused the article of Rum to be substituted for Brandy for the Naval Service."

At a subsequent meeting held on November 1st, "The Chairman reported that the application he had been directed to make to the Lords of Council for Trade as to the use of Cocoa in the Navy grown in the British Colonies, had been acceded to, and that the two following Letters had been received on the subject.

"Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade, Whitehall, 12th Sept., 1821.

"Sir,

"I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acknowledge the receipt of the Resolution of the Committee of West India Merchants of the 5th instant relative to the use of British Cocoa in His Majesty's Ships of War, which was transmitted in your letter of the 6th instant, and to acquaint you that a copy of the same has by their Lordships direction been forwarded to the victualling Board with a Letter expressing their Lordships favourable disposition towards the suggestion therein contained, if it can be adopted without an increase of public Expence and without prejudices to the Health and Comfort of the Seamen of His Majesty's Navy.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient

"Humble Servant,

"William Holden, Esqre.,  
&c., &c., &c.

(signed) "THOMAS LACK."

"Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, Whitehall, 19th September, 1821.

"Sir,

"In reference to my letter to you of the 12th instant, I am now directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acquaint you, that whenever any new Contracts shall be entered into for the supply of cocoa

for the use of His Majesty's Navy a preference will be given to that which is the product of the British Colonies.

"I am, Sir,

"Your Most Obedient

"Humble Servant,

(signed) "THOMAS LACK."

The other members present at the meeting which was followed by such satisfactory results to West Indian cacao were Oswald Smith, Esq., George Cottam, Esq., William Mitchell, Esq., Rowland Mitchell, Esq., William Beckford, Esq., Joseph Marryat, Esq., M.P.—great grandfather of Mr. A. P. Marryat of Trinidad, and a prolific writer of slavery tracts—and John Anthony Rucker, Esq.

The British Government now purchases mainly Trinidad, Grenada and Guayaquil cacao—the latter on account of its special flavour.

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### St. Lucia's Growing Lime Industry.

The report of Mr. Anthony de Freitas, Acting Administrator of St. Lucia, shows that efforts to develop agricultural industries in the island are being continued with success. The following figures show revenue and expenditure and imports and exports of the colony for the past five years.

	£	£	Imports.*	Exports* £
1909-10	65,739	64,446	266,228	250,671
1910-11	65,066	67,288	277,207	238,055
1911-12	71,978	69,328	318,590	273,101
1912-13	66,292	67,824	315,361	287,716
1913-14	67,490	68,352	228,405	274,460

\* Calendar years 1909-1913.

The exports in 1913 included bunker coal to the value of £141,038. The value of the produce of the island was £117,732. Since 1911, which was a bumper year, 139,056 tons of coal having been exported in it, the coaling trade has shown a falling off, 117,532 tons being exported in 1913.

While cacao and sugar remain almost stationary the lime cultivation is making rapid strides, and the value of the exports of lime products has risen from £290 in 1911 to £4,107 in 1913.

### St. Vincent's Cotton Industry.

In his report on the St. Vincent Blue-book for 1913-14, the Hon. C. Gideon Murray points out that whilst it is too early to gauge the economic effect of the Canadian-West Indian trade agreement, the West Indies are already indebted to Canada for the new steamer service which is being conducted at her own cost, and that the reduction of cable rates may also be attributed to it. The value of exports to Canada were, however, only £1,118 as against £3,008 in the previous year, owing to the substitution of cotton for sugar cultivation. The exports of arrowroot to Canada were doubled, rising from 44,133 lbs. in 1912 to 88,968 in 1913.

The total revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years were as follow :-

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £	Imports.* £	Exports.* £
1909-10	28,440	31,330	87,810	88,698
1910-11	30,125	30,343	97,736	101,180
1911-12	34,852	33,735	110,926	118,625
1912-13	38,088	33,993	129,142	111,684
1913-14	34,373	38,173	122,886	115,201

\* Calendar years 1909-1913.

On the 31st March, 1914, the excess of assets amounted to £8,115. There stood to the credit of the colony in addition the sum of £25,000, the unexpended balance of the fund contributed by private subscription at the time of the eruption of the Soufrière volcano in 1902-3. This is now invested in trust securities and held as a reserve or insurance fund against any possible future disaster which may result from the violence of the elements.

The steady development of the local cotton industry is shown by the following table.

Year	Sea Island Cotton.		All Cotton.	
	Weight. lbs.	Estimated value. £	Weight. lbs.	Estimated value. £
1903-4	Not known	—	43,392	791
1904-5	77,814	3,890	120,178	4,491
1905-6	121,174	6,059	138,150	7,674
1906-7	225,632	16,922	263,036	18,169
1907-8	388,833	29,162	427,819	30,787
1908	387,178	28,426	420,830	30,048
1909	330,936	30,684	350,186	21,325
1910	493,494	37,238	521,936	38,409
1911	511,947	40,529	538,114	41,619
1912	495,128	36,822	451,950	34,024
1913	426,238	33,744	484,975	36,191

The largest acreage under Sea Island cotton was recorded in 1911-12 when 5,068 acres were devoted to this crop. For 1913-14 the corresponding figure was 3,768 acres. The yield per acre in 1913-14 was 106 lbs., as compared with 175 lbs. in 1906-7, the highest yet reached.

**The Development of British Guiana.**

The outstanding feature of the year 1913-14 was the visit paid by the Governor, Sir Walter Egerton, and Mr. Bland to the interior of the colony. Subsequent to this tour of investigation, application was made for an Imperial loan to meet the cost of railway construction and colonisation and development schemes in connection with it, but the outbreak of war has necessarily postponed the construction of the project indefinitely, and the only railway development to be recorded is the extension of the West Coast Railway from Greenwich Park to Parika, which has since been opened.

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure and imports and exports in the last five years :-

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £	Imports.* £	Exports. £
1909-10	540,269	546,711	1,774,457	1,829,920
1910-11	563,101	542,757	1,749,766	1,628,105
1911-12	503,499	575,639	1,811,180	*1,850,733
1912-13	580,446	575,859	1,703,355	*1,576,988
1913-14	608,633	*592,532	1,694,155	*1,992,884

\* Calendar years 1911-1913.

The public debt at 31st March, 1914, was £883,415, a decrease of £1,200 as compared with the

previous year. Of this amount £813,415 represents sums borrowed for the construction of Public Works and for public purposes, the balance of £70,000 having been raised for immigration purposes and being repayable out of moneys received from the planters.

The exports of sugar were 9,593 tons greater than in 1912, with a value of £83,181, the figures for 1912 and 1913 being 77,821 tons (£1,019,489), and 87,414 tons (£1,102,670), respectively.

The exports of agricultural produce showed an increase as compared with the preceding year which was a particularly lean one owing to the drought. The exports of rice were the largest since the inception of the industry ten years ago, amounting as they did to 154,192 cwts., valued at £106,155. The establishment of the Abary Rice Company has considerably augmented the rice output, several thousands of acres of virgin savannah land having been empoldered by them for the purpose of producing rice by mechanical tillage. A considerable portion of the community is also devoting more attention to rice cultivation, so that the industry is gaining in importance. The rice grown in this colony is of excellent quality.

Among the most important events of the year was the finding of ample supplies of exceptionally pure artesian water in Georgetown. The water is reported by the Director of Science and Agriculture to be of exceptional purity for drinking and domestic purposes, and its alkaline nature renders it much more suitable for irrigation than the "hard" water usually obtained from artesian bores. The sinking of another well, on land adjoining the Ferry Steamer Quay, has been started. With a view to confirming the probable existence of similar underground supplies along the whole coast line, it has been decided to purchase a new rotary plant, which it is expected, will enable wells to be sunk in a fraction of the time taken with the machinery at present in use.

The vital statistics for the year show a further increased improvement in the public health over the average for the last few years. There are evidences that the strenuous efforts being made by the Medical Department, assisted by estates' managers to stamp out malarial fever and ankylostomiasis, and to improve sanitary conditions, are having the desired effect.

The statements which have recently appeared in the Press with respect to the Quebec Steamship Company are incorrect. All that has happened is that Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company have, by arrangement with Messrs. A. E. Outerbridge and Co., taken over the New York Agency of the Quebec Steamship Company—which is now controlled by the Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd. No immediate change in the West Indies and Bermudas services is contemplated.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

A RECENT number of the *Fruit Grower* contains an article pointing out strongly the value of sulphate of iron in agriculture. Trees treated with it acquire a greater increase of vitality, which shows itself in the increase of foliage; a symptom which our contemporary considers an undoubted proof that iron is the active chemical agent in the formation of chlorophyl. Apart from the direct advantage to the tree itself, sulphate of iron is invaluable as a germicide and insecticide, destroying those pests which attack the tree and thus prejudice its vitality.

THE subject of the effect of heat on soils has recently been experimented upon at the Hawaiian Agricultural Experiment Station, Honolulu. Twelve different soils representing a wide range of types and agricultural conditions were dealt with. Drying at 212°F was found to bring about an increase in the water soluble manganese, lime, magnesia, phosphoric acid, sulphates and bicarbonates. In about 50 per cent. of the soils examined an increase in the solubility of potash, silica and alumina was produced. Heating to 482°F. produced similar results, but varied in degree, some being greater and some less.

THE results of some interesting researches on the changes which take place in the sweet potato during storage are given in the January number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*. The conclusions which the experimenters Messrs. Hasselbring and Hawkins have arrived at are that during the growth the sweet potato root is characterised by a very low sugar content, the reserve materials from the vines being almost entirely deposited as starch. Immediately after the roots are harvested, a rapid transformation of the starch into sugar occurs, both cane sugar and reducing sugars. This change appears to be entirely due to internal causes.

SWEET potatoes stored at temperatures up to 62°F do not suffer loss of moisture. There is a gradual disappearance of starch during the first part of the season, accompanied by a rapid disappearance of cane sugar during the latter part of the season, the changes in reducing sugar being less marked than those in cane sugar. In sweet potatoes kept in cold storage there is a rapid disappearance of the starch, with an accompanying increase in cane sugar. Before the changes have reached their maximum the potatoes invariably rot. The main point brought out by the experiments is that at both high and low temperatures cane sugar is the chief product formed by the conversion of starch in the sweet potato.

52,793 tons of cacao valued at £2,193,678 were exported from the Gold Coast in 1914. In January last 17,341 tons were shipped.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE oil paintings of George III. and Queen Caroline, after Sir Joshua Reynolds, from the Council Hall at Kingston, Jamaica, are being restored in London by Messrs. W. Holder and Sons.

SIR OWEN PHILLIPS, who represented the Montgomery Boroughs in the House of Commons as a Liberal, has been adopted as Unionist candidate for Chester.

NEGOTIATIONS are in progress between the Overseas Prizes Committee and the Government of Jamaica for sending out a further ship to bring cargo to the United Kingdom.

MR. HOBHOUSE, Postmaster-General, has stated that within four hours of the outbreak of war we had severed every German cable which ran from Germany westwards or eastwards under the sea.

THE Editor would be glad to be favoured with the names of any of those connected with the West Indies who are serving in the National Guard or other volunteer corps and also in the Special Constabulary.

THE Cocoa Planters' Association of Trinidad which undertook the arrangement of the purchases of cacao for the colony's gift to the mother country is to be incorporated, and an Ordinance with this end in view has been introduced into the Legislature of Trinidad and Tobago.

Two steamers well-known in West Indian waters have been lost since we last went to press. The *Crown of Castile*, of the Direct Line, has fallen a victim to a piratical submarine off the Scillies, and the *Prins Maurits*, of the Koninklijke West-Indische Mail Dienst, has foundered in a gale off the coast of America.

MR. THOMAS BOYD, formerly factory manager of Albion in British Guiana has been elected a Director of the Gula-Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd. Mr. Boyd went out to Penang in 1891, when Gula was a sugar estate, and succeeding to the management in 1896 he was mainly responsible for the successful transition from sugar to rubber.

MR. Herbert Stanley Morris was married to Miss Sylvia Ena Harford at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in London on March 10th. The bridegroom is in the Colonial Civil Service, and the bride is the youngest daughter of the late Hon. Frederick de Creft Harford of "L'Estre," Grenada, and Mrs. Harford, of "Highgate," Barbados.

MR. H. E. McCULLOCH, formerly of Taymouth Manor, British Guiana, passed through London last week on his way from Belfast to the Straits Settlements, where, since 1907, he has been managing various rubber properties. Mr. McCulloch hopes to return in eighteen months' time and to take up his residence permanently in this country.

\* \* \*

IN company with the other newspapers the CIRCULAR has received a copy of Sir Francis Trippel's extraordinary recruiting appeal, which, though issued by authority of the War Office, has met with much adverse criticism in the Press. It is pointed out that Sir Francis Trippel is of German origin, and, apart from other reasons, it is not surprising that his scheme has been cold shouldered.

\* \* \*

Much sympathy will be felt with Mr. and Mrs. Pairaudeau in the loss they have sustained through the death of their infant daughter who was born on March 24th and died on the following day. Mr. Pairaudeau, who left British Guiana last year on relinquishing his post, settled with his wife at Northwood, calling his house "Kaieteur," after the great waterfall in the colony which was for so many years his home.

\* \* \*

IN a small and privately printed pamphlet entitled "The Making of the West Indies: The Gordons as Colonists," Mr. J. M. Bulloch shows what a prominent part the Clan Gordon has played in the colonisation of those colonies. Some members of the Clan reached the West Indies against their will in the days of Cromwell; but the majority went out in search of a fortune and attained distinction as planters and proprietors, and in public life. Several Gordons who figure in the list of the members of the West India Committee are unaccountably omitted, but it is pleasing to find an epitome of the career of Mr. William Gordon Gordon, whose successful connection with Trinidad dates from 1882.

\* \* \*

THE marriage of Mr. Stewart Spencer Davis, eldest son of the Hon. B. S. Davis, member of the Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, to Emma Agnes Darnell, only child of Mr. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., and Mrs. Darnell Davis, took place at All Saints, Norfolk Square, on Saturday, March 27th. Owing to the illness of the bride's father, the wedding was a quiet one, only relatives and a few friends being invited, the latter including Mr. C. Alexander Harris, C.M.G., Mr. C. Boughton Hamilton, C.M.G., and his daughter and Mr. A. E. Aspinall. The bride was given away by her cousin Mr. Ernest Cunard, and was attended by Miss Barbara Cunard as bridesmaid, while Mr. R. H. W. Wilkinson, Solicitor-General of the Gold Coast, was best man. After the ceremony, which was conducted by the Rev. William Boyd, Mrs. Darnell Davis entertained a few friends at a reception at the Mandeville Hotel, and later in the day, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Davis left for Oxford.

THE proprietors of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* have issued a circular letter inviting support to a company to take over the paper. Hitherto the attitude of the *Chronicle* has been one of open hostility to the planters, whose help is now being solicited, and of vituperative abuse of the West India Committee. There being little hope of publication being continued unless financial support is forthcoming the proprietors have now trimmed their sails, as is indicated by the following extract from their letter:—

"As is well known the policy of the paper in the past with regard to immigration had been of a fixed nature which may have given offence to a few who considered this attitude opposed to the interest of the sugar industry. The need for this policy no longer exists and the proprietors will support a settled scheme of colonisation which will, it is hoped, benefit the community generally while providing free labour to all who may desire it. The development of the interior by a sound policy of railway construction has always been advocated by the paper. Colonisation and railway construction are the most serious problems of the Colony but a vast increase of sugar cultivation seems also possible as a consequence of the Great War, if a sound policy is adopted by the British Guiana and the Home Governments. An independent journal can give the greatest assistance to these projects."

From the standpoint of its news supply, editorials and general appearance, the *Daily Chronicle* was in its day the best paper in British Guiana and the West Indies, and we should be sorry even now if it were to disappear altogether.

\* \* \*

The memory of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis C. Trollope, the owner of the historic Lord's Castle and other properties in Barbados, will be perpetuated by Brasses erected to his memory in the Trollope Chapel of Uffington Church, Lincolnshire, and the Ante-Chapel at Eton College. The former bears the inscription:—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF LT.-COL FRANCIS CHARLES TROLLOPE. BORN 1857, DIED JANUARY 28TH, 1913.  
SON OF GEN. SIR CHARLES TROLLOPE, K.C.B.  
AN OFFICER IN THE GRENADIER GUARDS AND A PIONEER OF MILITARY BALLOONING. HE SAW SERVICE IN BECHUANALAND IN 1884, IN BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA AGAINST MLOZI, 1896

The Brass at Eton is inscribed:—

A.M.D.G. MEMENOTE IN DOMINO.  
VIRI DESIDERATISSIMI  
FRANCISCI CAROLI TROLLOPE  
TRIBUNI MILITARIS PATRE  
NATI DUCE EGRIGIO  
CAROLO TROLLOPE EQVITI AURATO  
QUI COHORTIVM REGIARVM  
VNVS E PROEPECTIS ARTEM  
AERONAVTICAM VSIBVS BELLICIS  
IN PRIMIS ACCOMODAVIT  
IN REGIONE BECVANENSI  
A.S. MDCCCLXXXIV.  
A.S. MDCCCXCVI.  
CONTRA MLOZIUM IN AFRICA  
DITIVNIS BRITANNICE CENTRALI  
STIPENDIA MERVIT  
OBDORMIVIT IN CHRISTO DIE  
XXVIII MENSIS JANVARIII.  
A.S. MDCCCXIII.  
ÆTATIS SUE LVI.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

WOMEN are coming forward eagerly and in thousands to meet the demand for their services created by the war. The call of the Government has not been in vain. There is little likelihood of any department of industry closing down for lack of their labour. Not only as police officers, but as tram conductors, and even as shell-makers we are destined to hear more and more of their activity. The situation is one to gladden the heart of the most ardent suffragette.

DELAY in the production of munitions is being gradually diminished. It is to the credit of the Government that they were able so soon to bring the workers to agreement. The workers for their part were commendably prompt in grasping the need of urgency. Unfortunately there still remain the shirkers and the drinkers. These, a minority, are able to hamper to an important degree the industry of the majority. There is good evidence, however, that their day will be a short one. Shipbuilders and others have convinced the Cabinet that the public-house has, in regard to the minority established "a pull" over the workshop. Consequently we may expect to hear shortly of a further and more drastic curtailment of hours.

EASTER this year has been invested with few holiday attractions. With collieries and factories proceeding full steam ahead, thousands of workers are rendering national service rather than seeking personal enjoyment. Furthermore, naval and military requirements absorb so large a percentage of rolling stock, that railway excursions have been out of the question. The Londoner, however, able to get away to the south coast for a few days has suffered little deprivation since in his case cheap tickets represent a nominal advantage.

THE Headmaster of Eton has taken a plunge into decidedly hot water—at times the temperature of the water may be said to have reached boiling point. With the best possible intentions Dr. Lyttelton has advanced a suggestion which has excited the ire of countless newspaper correspondents. Distressed by the spectacle of German hatred of England, the Canon has proposed that if after the war we insist upon the internationalisation of the Kiel Canal, we should assent to a like course in regard to Gibraltar. The sinking of the *Falaba* by a German submarine accompanied by the loss of 100 lives has deepened resentment at Canon Lyttelton's proposal.

WEST Indian pupils frequently win the highest distinctions in the Cambridge Local Examinations. Once again Trinidad is to the fore. It is announced that as a result of the examination held in December last a prize of £8 has been awarded to George A.

Busby, who sat in the Junior Division. This pupil is to be heartily congratulated upon a success which has placed him at the head of his section despite the rivalry of thousands of competitors.

FOR many years the vessels of the Quebec Steamship Line have been familiar in West Indian waters. Running from New York to Bermuda and other islands—their terminus Demerara—they have been a favourite means of travel to and from the United States. Consequently our overseas readers will be interested in the news that the chief holding in this line has been acquired by the well-known English firm of Furness, Withy and Co. It is expected that the business to Bermuda will be considerably extended.

SIR Alexander Swettenham, writing to the *Times*, puts forward a useful suggestion regarding the custody of alien prisoners. The ex-Governor of Jamaica urges that, following the precedent set in the Boer War, these aliens should be sent for confinement in the Colonies. He points out that at the present time the prisoners are confined on board ships which are badly needed for other purposes, and are guarded by troops whose services would be useful elsewhere. Moreover, there would be less demand on our food supplies. It would certainly be interesting to see how far vessels conveying such prisoners to the colonies would be immune from the attentions of German submarines.

WE gather from the *Times* that the whole of South America, with the exception of Dutch Guiana is now open for the use of authorised codes in sending cable messages. This result has been brought about by the removal of restrictions against Brazil and French Guiana. No reason is given for the "splendid isolation" of Surinam. In making the announcement the *Times* urges the Postmaster General to remember that the codes themselves for which permission has so far been given are still inconveniently limited.

POLITICAL circles are discussing the news that Sir Owen Philipps will come forward at the next election as a Unionist candidate. Hitherto Sir Owen has been well known as a Liberal, having formerly represented a Welsh constituency in the Radical interest. Sir Owen is to seek the suffrages of the voters of Chester. Last week he was placed in mourning by the sudden death of his sister-in-law, Lady St. David's. Prior to her husband's elevation to the peerage Lady St. David's was well known as Mrs. Wynford Philipps. A brilliant orator, she took to the platform long before the cry of "Votes for women" was ever heard.

A list of publications may be obtained, post free, from the West India Committee Rooms 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Mr. S. S. HARLAND, B.Sc., has been appointed Assistant Agricultural Superintendent and Science Master of St. Vincent, in succession to Mr. F. Birkinshaw, who is now in Mauritius.

ON 26th, 27th and 28th February an Agricultural Exhibition was held by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago. The Board of Agriculture made a generous grant towards the funds, and notwithstanding hard times and the many other claims on one's purse in these war days, the show was a success in every way. The exhibits were of unusually high order, and the attendance throughout satisfactory. An interesting and useful feature was a series of lectures delivered regarding the effects of the War on Tropical Agriculture, Ankylostomiasis, Tuberculosis, and Sanitation, by Doctors Campbell, Masson, and Lassalle, and Mr. W. G. Freeman respectively.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Victorian* which brought the homeward mail reached Liverpool at 8 a.m. to-day (April 6th), and as the letters will not be delivered until to-morrow it is not possible to give the usual extracts. For the purpose of record we give below a summary of letters received by the R.M.S.P. *Essequibo*, which, it will be remembered, arrived at Falmouth on March 23rd, three days late.

Writing from *Antigua* on March 4th Mr. A. P. Cowley reported favourable reaping weather. The maize drying experiments were being continued with success and the Onion Growers' Association were shipping onions to New York and the islands. The Association bought the onions at a flat rate of 1 cent per lb., and undertook all the drying, crating and shipping, the profits being ultimately divided pro rata among the producers. The variations in the Dutch Sugar Standard were still engaging attention when Sir Frederick Clarke wrote from *Barbados* on March 9th. The Government was sending down a Bill to the House of Assembly proposing an export tax on sugar and molasses of half the amount recommended by the Joint Committee. It was suggested that the balance of the amount required might be raised by other taxes. Reaping was general, but the windmills were hampered by want of wind.

Mr. J. C. McCowan writing from *British Guiana* on March 6th, said that it was proposed to meet the estimated deficit of \$127,547 by a special war tax which would fall on the sugar planters. Mr. C. J. Macquarrie died at the General Hospital on February 27th to the great regret of all who knew him. The proprietors of the *Daily Chronicle* were considering the closing of their business, and had issued a circular suggesting the formation of a company to take over the newspaper. Mr. E. A. Agar, our Hon. Correspondent in *Dominica* was spending a brief holiday in Barbados, from which island he wrote with enthusiasm regarding the generous hospitality which he was receiving. The *Guiana* reached Roscau on February 15th with so many tourists that she could take no passengers. Mr. and Mrs.

Augustus St. Hilaire had been the recipients of many condolences on the death of their daughter at the early age of nine years. So also had Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Shillingford, whose daughter, aged three years, had lost her life through an accident. The *Dominica Chronicle* had received £370 14s. 8d. towards a Belgian Relief Fund, and the first instalment remitted included £119 18s. 9d. collected among the Anglican Congregation by their rector, Mr. Boucher.

From *Montserrat* Mr. K. P. Penchoen reported on March 5th that Captain Elgee, the Acting Commissioner, had assumed his duties, and had given an enjoyable At Home which was largely attended. Much inconvenience had been caused by the failure of the S.S. *Sarstoon* to call for 200 bales of cotton which awaited shipment. The weather had been hot and dry. In *St. Lucia*, according to Hon. G. S. Hudson, who wrote on March 4th, the weather had been fine and dry. Sugar factories were all hard at work. Cacao pickings were only moderate and would be over in two months. Limes were coming into flower for the new crop. The chief agricultural exports for the last three years had been as under:—

	1912	1913	1914
Cacao	1,914,541 lbs.	1,633,566 lbs.	1,594,030 lbs.
Sugar, Vacuum Pan	4,246 tons.	4,602½ tons.	3,732½ tons.
Sugar, Muscovado	161 tons.	—	66½ tons.
Lime Juice	5,695 gals.	7,968 gals.	11,113 gals.
Lime Oil	—	—	130 gals.
Green Limes	—	—	£363

The total value of Lime Products in 1914 was £6,550.

Writing from *St. Vincent* on March 6th, Mr. W. N. Sands said that planters were making some progress with planting other crops besides cotton and arrowroot. An oil mill had been erected at the Government Cotton Ginnery. The Hon. Mrs. Murray had been the recipient of an illuminated address and a diamond star from the ladies of the island as a mark of appreciation of her six years' work. The members of the fine needlework association had also presented her with an address besides some valuable pieces of embroidery. Only two inches of rain had fallen in *Tobago* since the preceding mail, when Mr. Robert S. Reid wrote on March 3rd. Coco-nuts were being gathered all over the island, and the bulk would be made into copra as prices were comparatively low. The Rev. F. H. and Mrs. Hammond had returned from England and Mr. Alefounder, of Studley Park, where sugar was again being made, had also arrived.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing from *Trinidad* on March 9th, gave an account of a disastrous railway accident which occurred between St. Joseph and San Juan on the 5th, resulting in the deaths of 11 and injury of about 40 persons. Two trains travelling in opposite directions at about 15 miles an hour collided. The result was appalling. The engines interlocked, and the two first carriages—third class—were smashed to pieces. Assistance was promptly at hand and everything possible done for the sufferers. About thirty years ago a somewhat similar accident occurred almost on the same spot, but since then, with trifling exception, the passenger service had been carried on without loss. It was a single line to which the tablet system was applied. The drivers and firemen of each engine were amongst those instantly killed, so their evidence would be missing, but it was stated that neither was to blame, and that in some inexplicable manner both drivers carried the tablets which should have ensured safety. Captain "Jack" Fakin, son of Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Fakin, who had been terribly wounded early in the war was visiting the island. Desultory fighting was taking place in Venezuela where the revolutionists were said to be making headway. In the Legislative Council Mr. Arthur Wight had moved an increase of the duty on lighter mineral oils, such as



gasolene, from 4d. to 6d. per gallon. He was supported by the Collector of Customs; but on the argument that the freight and insurance (the amount of which was much exaggerated) were sufficient protection, the motion was lost by 15 to 5. The shipments of Trinidad cacao during February had been as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom .....	1,349,675
B.N. America .....	23,640
France .....	679,600
United States of America .....	6,412,066
<b>Total for February .....</b>	<b>8,464,981</b>
Shipped previously .....	7,406,433
<b>Total from 1st January .....</b>	<b>15,871,414</b>
To same date, 1914 .....	16,414,326
"    "    1913 .....	12,580,244
"    "    1912 .....	18,966,873
"    "    1911 .....	10,870,541
"    "    1910 .....	15,764,034
"    "    1909 .....	14,841,342
"    "    1908 .....	16,103,829

The weather had been unusually dry. Produce was coming in freely, but ordinary was worth \$17.25 and Estates \$17.50 a rise of 75 cents from the quotations of the preceding day.

#### JAMAICA.

MR. ARTHUR CLODD, GREEN ISLAND, MARCH 22.—The past fortnight has been favoured with bountiful rains and conditions generally are favourable for a good crop of canes in 1916. Bananas also are looking well, except in a few places where they have been affected by high wind.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

*The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.*

#### Sugar and the War.

We have received from M. Georges Dureau, the editor of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, a letter on the above subject of which the following is a translation:—

"Will you permit me to submit some comments on the subject of the interesting remarks in your latest article on "Sugar and the War" in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of March 23rd?"

"As far as Russia is concerned the position with regard to the bounty would not be changed, if the statement made in the Press to the effect that the price limit at Kieff has been raised at the same time as the Excise Duty, and in the same proportion as before, is true. But to my mind the most important point is that Russia in adopting these measures has modified her internal legislation, when by her adhesion to the Brussels Convention she undertook to make no change in her regime.

"As for the position of the French Government with regard to the Brussels agreement, it would appear from a statement made by M. Thomson, Minister of Commerce, that the Government does not consider it possible "by one-sided action to cease carrying out the engagements to which she is pledged"; but nothing would prevent France and Belgium from arriving at an understanding with Russia to proclaim the collapse of the Sugar Convention in consequence of the declaration of war by Germany and Austria, and of thus securing in the matter of sugar, as in other

directions, "their most complete liberty of action." What strange scruples would prevent the two countries invaded and sacked by the Austrians and Germans breaking the bond which binds them still perilously to their enemies, who pay so little respect themselves to their engagements?"

"I can only explain it by the following considerations. If the Sugar Convention were to come to an end the Customs surtax would in France be automatically raised to 14 francs per 100 kilos, which would increase the protection considerably. Now as raw sugar No. 3 which was worth, here, before the war, about 33 francs per 100 kilos has risen since then from 70 to 100 per cent.—it is worth at this moment 68 to 69 francs in bond, that is to say without the consumption duties—while refined lump sugar costs at the grocers no less than 1.15 francs per kilo, one assumes that the Government considers it to be useless or inexpedient to provoke still higher prices for sugar by raising the Customs barrier, and that is why there is no chance of seeing France recover her liberty of action in the matter of the sugar trade. This is a sad anomaly for, I repeat, it will place us in a substantial position of inferiority compared with the Austrian and German sugar industry when peace is signed, and when our sugar factories undertake to raise themselves from their ruins. No doubt financial indemnities will be accorded to them; but as regards fiscal matters, within the purview of the International agreement our sugar manufacturers will be able to do nothing and to obtain nothing without the consent of the Austrians and the Germans, to whom, according to M. Thomson, they remain closely bound."

#### MARRIAGES.

**Davis-Davis.**—At All Saints, Norfolk Square, London, on March 27th. Stewart Spencer, eldest son of Hon. B. S. Davis, member of the Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, to Emma Agnes Darnell, only child of Mr. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., and Mrs. Darnell Davis.

**Morris-Harford.**—On March 10th, at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, London, Mr. Herbert Stanley Morris, of the Colonial Civil Service, to Sylvia Ena, youngest daughter of the late Hon. Frederick de Creest Harford, of "L'Estere," Grenada, and Mrs. Harford, of "Highgate," Barbados.

#### OBITUARY.

##### MR. HENRY LANGRIDGE.

We regret to state that Mr. Henry Langridge died on March 27th.

Once the owner of several sailing ships, and latterly senior partner in the firm of Henry Langridge and Co., brokers, Mr. Langridge was well-known in West Indian circles. He was a Director of the Baltic, and for many years a member of the West India Committee. A recognised authority on maritime law his services as arbitrator were in constant request. Though so closely identified with City life he was devoted to sport, and for many years shared a shooting with Mr. William Gordon Gordon of Trinidad. By his kindly manner he made a host of friends.

In a letter published in the *Standard*, Mr. George Hughes attributes the good teeth of the Jamaica negro to the use he makes of them by chewing his toothbrush, i.e., biting the rind off the cane and chewing the interior. He adds "there is a great virtue in cane sugar that is neither physiological nor chemical, and that is when it is produced under our flag for British consumption."

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

The Demerara Railway Co.

The Directors have decided, subject to audit, to recommend the following dividends on the stocks of the Company for the half-year ended 31st December last. (1) At the full rate for the half-year on the 4 per cent. extension preference stock; (2) At the full rate for the half-year on the 7 per cent. perpetual preference stock; and (3) A dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock.

Mr. W. Abbott  
Mr. A. K. Agar  
Mr. A. F. Anderson  
Mr. A. E. Bratt  
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke  
Lt.-Col. W. B. Davidson-  
Houston, C.M.G.  
Mr. F. J. Evans  
Mr. F. E. Everington  
Mr. W. M. Fletcher  
Mr. G. Graf  
Mr. J. T. Greg  
Mr. E. A. H. Haggart  
His Honour Leslie  
Jarvis  
Mr. A. S. Kernahan  
Mr. G. Carew, "Greylands," Ashburton, Devon.  
Mr. E. P. Gladwin, "Homelacy," St. Andrews Road, Portslade, Sussex.  
Sir Frederic M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.  
Major O. H. E. Marescaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.  
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.  
Mr. Austin H. Kirby, The Warren, Calabar, S.P., Nigeria.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	PRICE
4%	Antigua 4% Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2%	Barbados 3 1/2% Redeemable 1925-42	83
4%	British Guiana 4% Redeemable 1935	94
4%	British Guiana 3% Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4%	Grenada 4% Redeemable 1917-42	94
4%	Jamaica 4% Redeemable 1934	97
3 1/2%	Jamaica 3 1/2% Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
4%	Jamaica 3% Redeemable 1922-44	75
4%	St. Lucia 4% Redeemable 1919-44	99
4%	Trinidad 4% Redeemable 1917-42	99
4%	Trinidad 3% Redeemable 1922-44	74
6%	The Colonial Bank	5 1/2
7%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	85
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	94 1/2
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	98 1/2
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	100
4 1/2%	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2% Debentures	100
15/3	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	15/3
103 1/2	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	103 1/2
3/9 1/2	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	3/9 1/2
7/4 1/2	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/3 shares)	7/4 1/2
par	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (1/2 paid)	par
32 1/2	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	32 1/2
105	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	105
77	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	77
89 1/2	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	89 1/2
99	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	99
12	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	12
11	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	11
11	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd"	11
90 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	90 1/2

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Danube*, April 7th:—

Dr. F. Mahaber  
Miss N. I. Maynard  
Miss A. Gomes  
Mr. R. R. Stevens  
Mr. John Ewan  
Miss Dora Gordon  
Mr. W. G. H. Browne

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Feb. 25, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Feb. 20, 1915	1914
Sugar	13,664	16,147 Tons.	215	689 Tons
Molasses		61,749 Puns.		
Rum	1,084,266	779,933 Galls.	115,055	98,462 Galls.
Molascuit, &c.	249	709 Tons		
Cacao	16,978	20,037 lbs.	710,752	1,346,576 Lbs.
Coffee	29,685	33,402 "	1,746,320	2,665,272 "
Coco-nuts	161,070	395,237 No.	3,705,520	3,579,630 No.
Oranges			643,550	871,650 "
Bananas			530,564	1,312,008 Steins.
Cotton			5,031	
Pimento			12,716	19,773 Cwts.
Ginger			537	2,073 "
Honey			1,992	14,782 Galls.
Dye-woods			6,162	7,343 Tons
Gold	10,259	8,685 ozs.		
Diamonds		1,577 Carats.		
Rice	3,850,719	4,041,855 lbs.		
Balata	299,675	170,486 "		
Rubber	825	"		
Timber	37,020	30,883 cubic ft.		
Lumber	4,550	73,119 ft.		
Lime (citrate of)	1,640			

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to Mar. 6, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	1913
Sugar	3,001	2,925 Tons.	33,267	11,124 Tons.
Molasses	497	425 Puns.	102,697	82,090 Puns.
Rum	474	204 "		
Coco-nuts	1,165,300	2,946,635 No.		
Asphalt	7,898	19,278 Tons.		
Maniak	53	62 "		
Bitters	2,567	3,880 Cases.		
Coffee	8,000	4,000 lbs.		
Crude Petrol	53,540	1,037,785 Galls.		
Cacao	18,125,000	20,583,800 lbs.	7,850,720	6,903,000 lbs.
Cotton			35	68 Bales
Seed			96	357 Bags.
Copra	3,447	1,562 Bags.	373,310	477,250 lbs.
Spice			2,460	2,600 "
Kola				

	Dominica.	
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914.	1913.
Cacao	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	379,875	336,728 galls.
" concentrated	148,179	158,974 "
" Citrate of	5,191	4,753 cwts.
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984	5,370 galls.
" equalled	1,619	1,305 "
Hardwood	82,134	77,903 feet.
Bananas	3,780	4,266 steins
Coconuts	554,549	448,747 No.

THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies fills a long felt want including as it does in its scope the whole of British Guiana and British Honduras as well as the islands. A copy should be in every office in any way connected with the West Indian trade. The map has been adopted by several of the educational authorities in the colonies who pronounce it admirable for use in schools and colleges.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 4d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda (5s.; post free 5s. 4d.), are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE**—Remains at 5 per cent. as from August 8th last. Consols are quoted at 66½. War loan stands at 9/16 discount.

**SUGAR**—There is no indication as yet of any change in the attitude of the Government as regards the removal of the import prohibition. With respect to the manner in which it will be enforced, however, Mr. McKenna's recent statement in the House of Commons as to the importation of sugar by the Sugar Using Trades is important. In this Mr. McKenna made it very clear that, prohibition or no prohibition, these industries may contract for the importation of their own sugars. The Sugar Users will thus be allowed sugar at the world's price, while the ordinary consumer has to pay the Government price. As the amount of sugar used by confectioners, preserve and mineral water makers amounts to something in the neighbourhood of 25 per cent. of the total consumption in the United Kingdom, this is a matter of importance. This again brings up the question as to how long the Government supplies will last. Messrs. Willett and Gray correctly state that 50,000 to 70,000 tons of sugar have recently been purchased by the Sugar Commission at \$3.55 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs. f.o.b. Cuba. The same authorities also show that at least 65,000 tons of Mauritius sugar have been acquired by the Government over and above the 100,000 tons of the original Mauritius deal. There is also a steady stream of Dutch refined coming here at the instance of the Government. It is evident, therefore, that the British Government has given up the Gargantuan policy, acting on which the 1,000,000 tons of sugar were purchased at one fell swoop at the beginning of the war, and is contenting itself with augmenting its stocks by relatively small individual purchases at as low market prices as possible. As the stocks in the United Kingdom amounted on the 1st of March to 477,000 tons, more than sufficient for three months' consumption, and as up to that date but a small quantity—20,000 tons of the supposed 250,000 tons of Cuban bought for January-March delivery in August last has arrived—the requirements of the country appear to be well provided for for some time, especially if the Sugar Users utilise to any extent the Government permission to import.

Sugar imports into India continue to diminish in volume. Up to the end of January the amount imported for the ten months of the fiscal year was 330,000 tons less than the corresponding amount for the preceding year, the deficiency occurring in the six war months. Taking the deficiency as being at the rate of 55,000 tons per month, the lessened rate of import into India is equivalent to 660,000 tons per annum, which means that a quantity of sugar equal to one-third of the normal requirements of the United Kingdom becomes available for the world's purposes. The German Government have reduced the beet sowing in Germany by 25 per cent. for next crop.

In the London and Clyde markets not much business has been done, but prices have ruled at about the same rates as at the date of last report. In London on the 29th 120 bags of coloury Demerara sold at 27s., and 400 bags of low brown Jamaica at 19s. At the Clyde on the 30th 256 bags of crystallised Demerara sold at 26s. 3d. to 26s. 9d., 1,682 bags of yellow Mauritius sold at 25s. 3d. to 25s. 9d., 1,748 pockets of brown crystallised Mozambique fetched from 19s. to 21s., and eight bags of Demerara syrups 15s. to 15s. 9d.

The New York market has been steady with a tendency to higher prices. The \$4.86 price for 96° duty paid sugar of the 23rd quickly rose to \$4.95, but buyers being temporarily satisfied, the price soon fell to \$4.80, and now stands at \$4.77. The questions of the removal of the British prohibition, the re-entry of the British Government into the market and the opening of the Dardanelles are still affecting business. Granulated is quoted at from \$5.80 to \$5.90. American refiners are looking forward to a British Government demand for this class of sugar, which is beginning to find great favour in this country.

**RUM**—There is little or nothing to report in this connection. In any circumstances the trade slackens at this time of the year, and the recent speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and consequent agitation re drink prohibition, has not improved matters. Demeraras may be quoted at the same figure as at last Summary, viz., 28. 2d. per proof gallon. The value of Jamaicas is 3s. for medium and 4s. for fine.

Stocks in London on March 27th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	4,291	5,506	5,507	7,567	7,943
Demerara	6,744	10,196	8,727	8,525	7,328
Total, all kinds	11,035	15,702	14,234	16,092	15,271

**CACAO**—The market continues strong with an all-round rise in price, Trinidad and Grenada varieties especially selling at a considerable advance. At auction sales on the 30th ult., 320 bags Trinidad partly sold at 98s.; 752 bags of Grenada mostly sold at 89s. to 96s. 6d.; 52 bags of Dominica partly sold at 85s. to 89s.; and 253 bags St. Lucia partly sold at 86s. 6d. to 96s. 6d.

The imports of cacao for February amounted to 14,468,410 lbs. as against 10,339,487 lbs. for the corresponding month of last year, bringing up the imports for the two months of the present year to 26,907,883 lbs. as against 14,468,410 lbs. The exports for February were 3,038,531 lbs. as against 1,663,734 lbs., and the total exports for the present year to the end of February 6,450,460 lbs. as against 3,339,683 lbs. This country is thus becoming an important distributing centre for this commodity. As regards cocoa and chocolate, the figures are still more remarkable. For the first two months of this year the imports were at very much the same rate as last year; but for the same period exports were over five times as much as for the corresponding period of last year, being 8,768 cwt. as against 1,538 cwt.

**COTTON**—Since our last report about 250 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been sold, chiefly Montserrat, 15d. to 15½d., with a few bales of St. Vincent at 13d. to 18d., St. Kitts at 15d., and of St. John at 5d. to 7d. The market remains quite firm, but with only occasional enquiries. As American West Indian Sea Island cotton has advanced in price, there is no reason why the above prices should not be maintained, although, owing to the dislocation of the fine cotton trade on account of the war, progress will probably be slow.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Juice (raw) is scarce, and good qualities are wanted. Concentrated There is no change to report. Lime Oil (distilled)—Supplies are scarce and small sales have been effected of good qualities at 2s. 10½d. There is nothing new to report in handpressed.

**NUTMEGS**—Unchanged. 100's/80's 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/140's 4½d. to 4¾d.; 140's/120's 4½d. to 4¾d.

**MACE**—Good to fine 2s. 11d.; medium to good, 1s. 11d.; broken 1s. 4d.

**ARROWROOT**—Market steady. About 500 barrels have been sold at 2½d. to 2 9/16d.

**COPRA**—Market steady at a decline of 6s. per ton. Fair merchantable West Indian may be quoted at £26 10s.

**RUBBER**—Prices remain practically the same as the date of last report. Fine plantation can be quoted at 2s. 4d., smoked sheet at 2s. 5d., fine hard Para at 2s. 5½d., fine soft Para at 2s. 3½d.; Castilloa sheet at 2s. and Castilloa scrap at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.

**BALATA**—Practically unchanged. Block is quoted at 2s. 11½d. c.i.f., or 2s. 0½d. landed, sheet at 2s. 2d. c.i.f., or 2s. 3d. landed.

**TIMBER**—Good demand in Honduras Mahogany for squared logs, but little enquiry for round, 5½d. to 7d. may be taken as the current quotation. Trinidad Cedar may be quoted at 3d. to 4½d., at which price ready sales could be made. Jamaica Satinwood is in little demand at from £4 to £8. Jamaica Lignum Vitae would admit of ready sale, at from £3 to £7.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Unchanged. Water White 9½d. American, 8½d.

April 5th, 1915.

ALGERNON F. ASPINALL.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

15, SERPENTINE LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

April 19th, 1915.

### TOBAGO'S GROWING PROSPERITY.

WHEN Tobago became the ward of Trinidad in 1899 many feared that its identity would be completely lost in that of the neighbouring colony. It is satisfactory to find, however, that this has not been the case, and that in recent years the smaller island has been receiving increased attention from settlers and capitalists. For both it affords opportunities fully equal, if not to some extent superior—and we have in mind the fact that it is outside the hurricane zone—to those of Dominica and St. Lucia, which are the settlers' islands *par excellence*. For the varieties of its resources Tobago is unequalled by any of the Lesser Antilles. A list of exports for 1914, for which we are indebted to MR. G. D. HARR, of Scarborough, shows that last year they were made up of no fewer than thirty-seven separate items, and though some are represented by a small value only they are at least sufficient to show that the articles are capable of production in the island. Formerly sugar was the great staple; but this has been replaced mainly by cacao, the exports of which were valued at £41,572 last year. Being a long and narrow island with an extensive sea-board Tobago is ideal for coco-

nut cultivation, and the figure of £10,539 representing the value of nuts and copra is a mere shadow of the coco-nut industry as it will become when the areas recently planted up come into full bearing. Tobago is also a market garden, for last year vegetable products were exported to the guardian island to the value of £3,271, while its suitability for stock farming is shown by the fact that cattle represented in value £2,436, goats £419, horses £2,040, mules £200 and sheep £605. The Royal Commissioners who visited the island in 1897 stated in their report that Tobago was better suited for the rearing of horses, cattle and sheep than any of the West Indies, and in an Appendix the late MR. J. H. HARR said that owing to the abundance of guinea grass in both the Leeward and Windward districts the breeding of horses and cattle and small stock could be carried on much more extensively than it was then. We are indebted to MR. HARR for a reminder that in 1884 HIS MAJESTY THE KING, then PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES, enjoyed a ride on a spirited Tobago mare belonging to the REV. F. O. MILLER, while only recently PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE of Schleswig-Holstein explored the island behind a pair of Tobago ponies. Some years ago considerable sums were spent in endeavouring to establish a cotton industry in the island though with less successful results than in the neighbouring colonies. An industry, however, which is full of promise, is that of tobacco. Though SIR CHARLES LUCAS in his "Historical Geography of the Colonies" supports the view of PERE LABAT that the derivation of the name of the island from Tobacco is a mistaken one, it is a significant fact that tobacco has proved particularly well suited to the soil and climate of Tobago. The late MR. DAVID NELSON of Patience Hill, an estate of 600 feet above the sea which last year had a rainfall of 31.42 inches as compared with 68.93 for the Windward district, found a ready market for the fragrant weed in Port-of-Spain. From small beginnings in 1897 when the exports were valued at £15 they rose last year to £3,010, a figure which does not include the value of the considerable amount of native grown and locally prepared tobacco used by the people of the island for pipe, cigar and cigarette smoking. The most hopeful point for the future is that Tobago has lately attracted quite a number of young and energetic Scotch settlers to its shores. Though several of these are now absent serving their country they will, it is hoped, return and bring others with them. For tourists and visitors too Tobago has many attractions not the least being that it is the island described by DEFOE in "Robinson Crusoe." With larger and

improved steamers now plying between Trinidad and Tobago it is certain that when the war is over tourists will not be content to visit Trinidad without also visiting her ward. The advantages of Tobago were recognised as far back as 1682 when a certain CAPTAIN JOHN POYNTZ, in a pamphlet which MR. R. BRUCE ARCHIBALD had reprinted a few years ago, extolled them, on behalf of a London company which acquired 120,000 acres—though the total area is only 74,000—from the Duke of Courland: "amusing proof," to quote SIR CHARLES LUCAS, "that speculators 200 years ago knew how to puff fields of emigration in which they were personally interested as well as at the present day."

#### THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

**T**HE Government appears to have arrived at no decision as yet as to what steps it will take to encourage the establishment of a beet sugar industry in this country. The views expressed in the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture" by PROFESSOR C. S. ORWIN, who was officially deputed by the Government to investigate the matter, make it sufficiently clear that his report will be a favourable one. In the absence, however, of any promise of Government assistance, beyond that already afforded through the absence of excise duty on beet sugar produced in this country, the English farmers show no particular enthusiasm towards sugar beet cultivation. It is hoped that while investigating the possibilities of home-grown beet the Government is not losing sight of the importance of developing other sources of sugar supply within the Empire. In this connection the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has communicated with the Governments of the principal British cane sugar producing colonies with a view of ascertaining what openings there are for the expansion of the cane sugar industry in their respective localities. In our last issue we published the first of the reports on the subject which have been received. SIR WALTER EGERTON, the Governor of British Guiana, forwarded, it will be remembered, a memorandum from PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON, the Director of Agriculture of the Colony, in which that authority stated that if the large virgin alluvial areas to the east of the Pomeroon River and between there and the Venezuelan boundary were brought under cultivation, the maximum total output of sugar in British Guiana might reach no fewer than 2,500,000 tons of sugar per annum. In forwarding this memorandum SIR WALTER EGERTON pointed out that while this production would depend on capital being available, the availability of capital would be practically unlimited if reasonable certainty existed that sugar prices would remain remunerative. This is the crux of the whole question, and it is useless to expect capitalists to come forward unless they can receive a definite guarantee that the money which they invest will not be lost through unfair competition with Continental protected beet sugar. The labour difficulty can, in SIR WALTER'S

opinion, be easily solved by immigration from the East Indies or elsewhere. In the present issue we are publishing a report from SIR BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT, Governor of Fiji, who shows that the sugar industry in that colony is capable of considerable expansion, though not to the same extent as in British Guiana. But PROFESSOR HARRISON'S memorandum shows that given favourable conditions sufficient sugar could be produced in British Guiana alone to meet the requirements of the United Kingdom, which in normal times amount to 2,000,000 tons per annum. We have reason for believing that hitherto sugar-using trades in this country have hesitated to give any active support to the movement in the direction of the production of sugar within the Empire in the belief that insufficient could be produced to make it worth while upsetting existing arrangements. The official reports which we are now publishing should disabuse them of this view, and we trust that among the many changes brought about by the war will be the substitution in the United Kingdom of British produced sugar for the product of foreign countries on which we have been almost entirely dependent in recent years.

#### OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

##### H.M. Biplane "Dominica."

Through the courtesy of the Army Council we are able to publish in the current CIRCULAR an illustration of an aeroplane presented by the people of Dominica to the Royal Flying Corps. It will be recalled that Mr. Harcourt on learning that the Legislative Council wished to pass a vote of £4,000 to His Majesty's Government for expenses in connection with the war, cabled over to the Council suggesting that any contributions should be made to the Prince of Wales' Fund. The Legislative Council persisted in their desire to present the money for some war purpose, and Mr. Harcourt concurred. At the suggestion of the Admiralty the contribution was then divided between the naval and military wings of the Royal Flying Corps. The aeroplane which, it will be noted, is armed with a quick-firing gun is a 100 h.p. Vickers Biplane, and carries a gunlayer as well as a pilot.

##### A New Bank Building in Bridgetown.

Our other illustration is of the new building of the Royal Bank of Canada in Bridgetown, Barbados, a city which has hitherto not been able to boast of many buildings of architectural merit. Indeed, beyond the Public Buildings, St. Michael's Cathedral and the Barbados Mutual building, we could mention no structure in Bridgetown which rises above the commonplace. The new building, which is constructed of reinforced concrete, stands at the corner of Broad and High Streets, near the public buildings and next to the statue of Nelson, the second statue of the naval hero erected in the Empire.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

A meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on Thursday, April 15th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members present were, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The following were admitted members of the West India Committee :—

Names.	Proposers and Seconders.
Mr. A. E. Hanna,	{Mr. Howard Marsh. {Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.
Mr. Henry S. Schnarr, (British Guiana)	{Hon. A. R. Usher. {Mr. Frank R. Dragten.
Mr. H. S. Tappin, (Trinidad)	{Mr. G. R. Alston. {Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Mr. James A. Biggart, (Tobago)	{Mr. G. David Hatt. {Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co.
Dr. A. J. Grinan, (Jamaica)	{Mr. E. A. de Pass. {Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. Errol d'Ade, (Trinidad)	{Mr. J. Ralph Carrington. {Hon. Major A. de Boissière.
Mr. James C. Date, (Grenada)	{Hon. G. Seton-Browne. {Mr. A. W. Duncan.
Mr. J. Andrew Robertson, (Tobago)	{Mr. G. David Hatt. {Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co.
Mr. Isaac Arbuthnot Hope, (Tobago)	{Mr. G. David Hatt. {Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co.

The draft Annual Report to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting on May 13th, was considered, amended and approved. Mr. Rutherford on behalf of the Hon. Treasurers then laid before the meeting the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1914, and the Balance Sheet, which were approved.

Correspondence with the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow with reference to the delivery of the West Indian mails was read, and the Secretary was instructed to represent to the Postmaster General the desirability of the mails being dealt with more expeditiously, having regard especially to the short time already available for replying to letters.

The Chairman referred to the threatened prohibition of alcohol, and pointed out that if it were carried out it would have a disastrous effect on the West Indian rum industry. After discussion a Sub-Committee consisting of the Deputy Chairman, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Arthur J. McConnell, Mr. Cyril Gurney and Mr. E. A. de Pass was appointed to consider the matter and to recommend what representations, if any, it might be desirable to make to the Government on the subject.

During the year to date 36 new members have

been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places :—

Barbados	5	Grenada	1
Tobago	5	Nevis	1
British Guiana	4	St. Kitts	1
Jamaica	2	Trinidad	3
Antigua	1	London	9
British Honduras	1	Country	1

**THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.**

The Russian advance in the Carpathians still overshadows the operations both on land and sea, although there is no indication of slackening activity elsewhere. The spirit of cheery optimism, which pervades the French and Russian official reports, makes it clear that the initiative in both theatres has now definitely passed from the Germanic Allies to the Triple Entente. Perhaps the enemy's consciousness of the vital change accounts for a more subdued tone in his reports. He is less confident than he was.

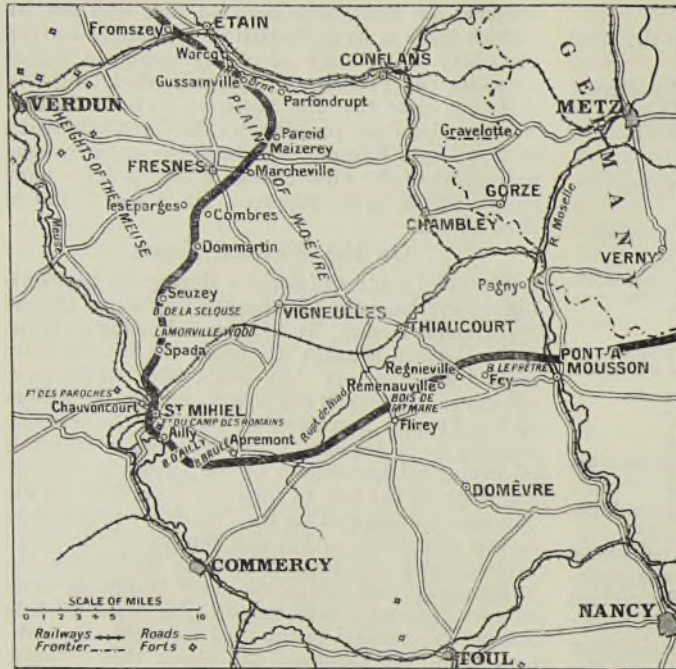
**On the Western Front.**

The chief centres of activity during the past fortnight have been the Champagne sector and around St. Mihiel in Alsace. In the first, following upon the futile German attempt to break the French lines around Rheims, our Ally has taken the counter-offensive. As a result she now commands the valleys of the Py and Dormoise, as well as the railway running from Somme-Py to Challerange, which is of strategical importance to the enemy as it links the whole of the rear of their line from Laon to the Argonne. From Perthes the French are progressing in two directions. After the capture of the Sabot Wood, which was accomplished by a simultaneous attack from west and south, they continued their advance through a long narrow pine wood towards Somme-Py, parallel to the road from Souain. Unless, then, the Germans can check this growing pressure on their front here they will find their communications seriously threatened.

**Around St. Mihiel.**

This salient has been the scene of heavy fighting for months past. The enemy is in possession of St. Mihiel, but in spite of many efforts has never been able to cross the Meuse, on the right bank of which the city stands. Similarly the French have not been able to drive the enemy out by frontal attacks, nor to seize the light railway, which he has built to connect Mihiel with the main line between Thiaucourt and Metz since the war began. The flanking movements from the north, around Verdun, one of the four great French fortresses, and on the south in the forest of Apremont are proving more successful. They now extend along a front of between sixty and seventy miles, forming the letter U. Yard by yard, house by house, trench by trench, and hill by hill the Germans have been forced to the edge of the Woivre plateau, beyond which is the plain that stretches to the Moselle. With the capture of Gussainville on the River Orne, and the defeat of

an artillery attack on the outlying fort of Douaumont, the French have completed their occupation of Eparges, and are half-way to Mihiel. On the south they are steadily advancing to Pont-à-Mousson. The losses on both sides are very heavy, but the gain to our Ally is so considerable as to be worth the sacrifice. The Germans, realising the danger of being cut off at Mihiel, are strengthening their forces in Alsace. Their ultimate aim is, of course, to secure the safety of Metz.



The St. Mihiel "Wedge."

### In the Eastern Theatre.

The fighting in the Carpathians is on a scale unprecedented in history. Its fierce and sanguinary character beggared description months ago when the forcing of the passes was a side issue of the war. Since then the enemy has tried to break through the Russian front north of the Pilitza at a vital point but in vain. With a dogged persistence and a military ability which have not been fully recognised, every link in the long chain from the Baltic to Galicia has been tested by Marshal von Hindenburg in force, and not one has yielded. The Germans now know by disastrous experience that they cannot drive the Russians beyond the Niemen, Narew, Vistula and San, which was part of their original plan of campaign, and will have their work cut out for them in holding the Carpathians. Hence the importance of this front gains daily, and it is prophesied with some authority that here will be fought the battle which

will be the turning-point of the war. For once the Russians gain possession of the range and its foothills the Germans will be forced to dispute the advance of the invader on the plains in a pitched battle, the result of which must be decisive. Should they lose the way will be opened to Cracow, and, through one of the most vital portions of the German Empire, to Berlin. That, however, is in the distance, though our great Ally fights with a rare skill and determination. It must be remembered, too, that she is no nearer her objective than she was last December, when her troops penetrated to the Hungarian Valleys. Then she was not resisted by armies fighting with the desperation of despair, neither were her own forces of the best. To-day the whole situation is altered. Both the Germans will put every available man they can spare on the Carpathian front, and every foot of this wild and inaccessible region, a map of which was given in last issue, will be desperately contested.

### In the Passes.

The Russians are well through three of the passes, Dukla, Lupka, and Rostok, the Uszok Pass being still held by the Austrians. Here a great battle is developing since the Russians in a swift offensive, reached Woolate. Up to then most of the fighting had taken place in the Beskid Mountains, the main centre of activity having been between Bartfeld and the Rostok Pass, with Hommona as the main Russian objective. The town is an important railway junction, and is one of the main gateways of the Hungarian plain. It is situated, too, at a point

where the Laborc and Ciroka valleys meet. The aim of the Russians is to outflank the Austrians at Uszok, and, up to the present, they have carried through simultaneous movements to a successful issue with great skill. But the most recent Petrograd communiqué seems to indicate that they are again thrown on the defensive by Austrian superior forces. Any further advance will depend on the issue of the Uszok battle. The Germans are resuming their attacks on Koziowa, most likely with the object of threatening the left flank of the Russians at Uszok. The attacks are, in fact, an important offensive in a region in which for a whole fortnight the enemy has been on the defensive. So far he has not been successful, though the capture of one height is recorded.

### In the Air.

British, French and Belgian aviators continue to do good work all along the Western front, and



H.M. BIPLANE "DOMINICA" THE GIFT OF THE ISLAND OF THAT NAME.



A NEW BANK BUILDING IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.



beyond. The most recent exploit of our men was a raid on Hamburg, which, while doing some damage to the city, alarmed the inhabitants.

The activity of the enemy may be traced in the explosion at an Admiralty store in Lerwick, the fishing trade of which with Russia was, before the war, largely in the hands of Germans. Not only were five persons killed and many wounded, but the neighbourhood, including the fish market, was devastated.

#### The Zeppelin Raids.

The enemy has made two more attempts to raid the English coast. A Zeppelin appeared to the north of the Tyne about eight o'clock on April 14th, its objective being the ship-building yards at Jarrow and along the river. Twenty bombs were dropped, but the damage done was very small, and no lives were lost, though there were some narrow escapes. Another attempt, on April 16th, proved equally ineffective. This time the scene was East Anglia and Kent.

#### Events at Sea.

The Turkish Navy has experienced another loss. The *Medjidieh*, while attempting a raid on Odessa, struck a mine. Apparently her officers lost their heads, for instead of allowing her to sink in deep water, they made for the shore. The consequence is she has fallen into the hands of the Russians, who will raise and refit her for use against her former owners. Hardly anything was done to minimise the value of the booty, and that to no purpose.

The sinking of unarmed merchant vessels by German submarines continues at about the same rate, one a day. Though the proportion is small when compared with the number of ships which daily leave British ports the aggregate loss is very considerable.

At last the United States, after stretching neutrality in favour of the armed merchant cruiser *Eitel Friedrich*, has interned her. A day or two later the place in dock she vacated was occupied by the *Kronprinz Wilhelm*, which will, no doubt, in due course share the same fate, and the last of Germany's 14 auxiliary cruisers at sea when the war began will be put out of action. The *Karlsruhe* is believed to have been sunk in West Indian waters, and those of the crew who were saved, returned to Germany. There has never been any enemy announcement with regard to this ship, but the Admiralty has stated that these are the facts. The theory of a popular school of naval thought once was that all commerce destroying would, for lack of coal, cease a month or two after the outbreak of hostilities. Experience has proved that the theory was false.

#### Pirates and Prisoners.

Germany has, through the American Embassy, protested against our determination to deal with the captured submarine crews as pirates by fair trial. Her reasoning is that they merely obeyed "military

orders," another instance of her naive assumption that to her alone is it given to over-ride international law and humanity when it suits her. The threat is even made that should we take proceedings as we propose, "for every man of the crew of a submarine made prisoner a British Army Officer held prisoner of war in Germany will receive correspondingly harsher treatment." As this, on conclusive evidence, could hardly be worse, the German threat is idle, officers and men of British nationality being treated with unprecedented cruelty. They are starved, ill-used, and housed in insanitary conditions, the object of which can only be to reduce them to physical wrecks. In contrast to this, German prisoners of war in England are treated more like honoured guests.

#### The Blockade and Cotton.

The impression given by the speeches of British ministers with reference to blockade was that Germany's supplies from outside sources were being cut off. But when the Order in Council, which was supposed to embody this policy was published, it was discovered that its clauses were merely permissive. Fresh light has been thrown on the unaccountable attitude of the British Government by a body of distinguished chemists and men of science, headed by Sir William Ramsey. They are not satisfied that Mr. Asquith's recent statement involves the total exclusion of cotton from the Germanies, and, after a vain effort in a lengthy correspondence to get a definite reply from the War Office and Board of Trade, are convinced that it is with the consent of the British Government the enemy is being supplied with one of the most necessary ingredients in the manufacture of ammunition. It is said that it takes 300 lbs. of cotton to enable a 12-in. gun to fire once, and that in January and February Germany received 200,000 bales. One can therefore easily calculate to what extent we ourselves have contributed to the slaughter of our own soldiers in the field. And the process still goes on. If the aim of the Government is to propitiate neutrals it does not seem from the recent American Note that they are succeeding, while sacrificing British interests. An alternative proposal is for the State to buy up the whole of the American cotton crop. It has been calculated that the measure would cost no more than the cost of a week's war. But, on the other hand, it would weaken the enemy's power to hold out. As it is he has supplies of cotton sufficient to meet his necessities for some time to come. The doubt arises, too, that if he is allowed to procure in large quantities a commodity so essential to the continuance of the war there is no knowing what other commodities are finding their way to him.

#### In German South-West Africa.

The Union Forces are steadily advancing. Aus has been occupied without resistance, and Warmbach, the Capital of the Colony, is now in British hands. The prisoners, who speak in high praise of

our artillery, are pessimistic as to the result of the war in this remote theatre. Ammunition seems to be deficient, although guns and provisions are abundant. Around Aus Nek the bridges were destroyed before evacuation, and here, as elsewhere, the enemy has infringed even the very low standard he has set himself in his *General Staff Book* by poisoning wells.

(To be continued.)

## WEST INDIA WAR-TIME TRADE.

BY AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

### Filling the Gap of the German Withdrawal.

Some estimate can now be made of the gap resulting from the enforced withdrawal of German trade from the British West Indian market. There is little likelihood that any German statistics later than those now available for the year 1912 will be obtainable for some time to come. But, even so, the figures are useful to British merchants and manufacturers, and to West Indian interests alike, for the light which they shed upon matters now capable of being turned to British advantage.

In the German tables the details are grouped under the heading, "British America, except Canada"; so that, although some totals may have to be regarded as approximate, there can be little doubt that, as a whole, they apply mainly to the West Indies.

Altogether, the various items of export trade amounted in value to 2,604,000 marks (£130,200). Relatively to other parts of the Empire, the sum is admittedly not great. But it has to be remembered that German trade was everywhere a growing trade. We have reason to know only too well that in one instance alone—Bolivia—British trade fell from 33 per cent. to 18 per cent. in the short space of three years (1910 to 1913), while German trade in the same period advanced by an exact reversal of those percentages. In brief, the two Empires entirely changed places. So it would not be wise to treat the comparatively small West Indian figure lightly. More than two years had passed when war burst upon the world in August, 1914, and it would be no cause for wonder to find the German £130,200 of 1912 very considerably magnified. We know that the Germans established in Port-of-Spain found Trinidad and the Islands generally a most profitable and satisfactory market. They did not suspend their energies until the West Indian authorities deemed it advisable to suspend them officially, and it may be taken for granted that when they closed their operations they had an improved record.

Possibly some of their good showing was obtained through the medium of wines, spirits and other beverages. This was the highest of all the German exports to the West Indies, and accounted for 277,000 marks (£13,850). Iron and alloys thereof followed with a total of 270,000 marks (£13,500). For cotton and cotton goods 254,000 marks (£12,700) was the sum registered. Next in order came chemi-

cals, etc., 172,000 marks (£8,600); glass and earthenware, 154,000 marks (£7,700); machinery, 123,000 marks (£6,150); paper and cardboard, 112,000 marks (£5,600); prepared wax, soaps, etc., 90,000 marks (£4,500); mill produce from corn, rice and pulse, 88,000 marks (£4,400); earthenware, 80,000 marks (£4,000); products of factories of alimentary and consumable goods, 79,000 marks (£3,950); musical instruments, 74,000 marks (£3,700); animal and vegetable textile materials and manufactures thereof (except cotton, silk, and wool and other animal hair) 72,000 marks (£3,600); ether, alcohols, volatile oils, artificial scents, perfumery and cosmetics, 70,000 marks (£3,500); cork wares and wooden wares, 68,000 marks (£3,400); electro-technical apparatus, 66,000 marks (£3,300); sugar, 64,000 marks (£3,200); toys, 53,000 marks (£2,650); silk, 33,000 marks (£1,650); copper and alloys thereof, 33,000 marks (£1,650); artificial manures, 32,000 marks (£1,600); wool and other animal hair, 30,000 marks (£1,500); vehicles and vessels, 28,000 marks (£1,400); and colours and dyestuffs, 27,000 marks (£1,350).

These items, of course, by no means exhaust the list. "Metals and wares thereof," for instance, has a representative showing, quite apart from the 270,000 marks to the credit of "iron and alloys thereof." What has chiefly to be considered in relation to the traffic as a whole is the source, or sources, from which the gap formed by Germany's expulsion from the West Indian market is now most likely to be filled. It is one of the sardonic effects of this unparalleled war that it deprives Great Britain of the power to take immediate advantage of the opportunity which it expressly presents for the extension of British trade. When workshops formerly manufacturing general merchandise are now entirely employed at high pressure producing munitions of war, when shipping facilities are curtailed by Government requirements, and when depreciated rates of exchange have obstructed the ordinary movement of foreign trade, it is plainly impossible to make a capture at once of enemy commerce. It is this limitation that provides competitive countries, and even the British Possessions, with a golden opportunity to be first in the field to reap where Germany has been accustomed to sow. Canada, for instance, has been finding her more intimate commercial intercourse with the West Indies increasingly profitable. In October, 1914, as the Dominion's own record shows, Canadian produce was shipped to the Islands to the value of \$332,682 (£66,536). At this rate per month, Canada would have a showing of \$3,992,184 (£798,436) for the full year. These figures, it will be seen, exceed the German 1912 total (2,604,000 marks—£130,200) by \$1,388,184 (£277,636). If they were only approximately realized, the result would be very encouraging to Canadian hopes, so far as ambition to supplant Germany is concerned—and, like the United States, the Dominion has a very strong aspiration in that direction. Canadian power to maintain the October West Indian figures as an average is by no means

uncertain. For the preceding month (September) the Dominion's export to the Isles was only \$74,973 (£14,994) short of October's \$332,682; while in August—the month of the outbreak of war—the total was actually \$7,947 (£1,589) more, viz., \$340,629 (£68,125).

Undoubtedly, these achievements are promising. In weighing them it is essential to note the fact that from the West Indies themselves the Dominion receives every encouragement. Relatively to their consuming powers, the \$332,682 (£66,536) purchase of the West Indies from Canada in October, 1914, was in fair proportion to the Dominion's \$545,271 (£109,054) for West Indian products in the same month. But what this latter figure means in the way of trade advancement and development is unimpressive until comparison brings it fully to grasp. It is more than double the value of the export of the Islands into Canada in October, 1913, when the item stood at \$272,594 (£54,518). And there is every sign that the war will tend to augment the volume of trade on both sides.

But instructive though all these inter-Colonial figures are to the manufacturer and merchant of the United Kingdom, they are significantly overshadowed at the moment by the British West Indian trade of the United States. In September, 1914, the value of the total trade amounted to \$2,029,792 (£405,958), which gives an annual value of \$24,357,504 (£4,871,500). This was a slight reduction from the statement of September, 1913, when the record was \$2,069,132 (£413,826). No doubt the conflict in Europe had much to do with the unimportant drop; but the proportion of import to export remained much the same as in 1913, the West Indies importing to the States to the value of \$1,021,192 (£204,238), and receiving export from the States to the value of \$1,008,600 (£201,720). That these records represent steadily maintained trade, the statement for the first six months of the fiscal year, ending September, 1914, gives conclusive proof. For that period the total value of import and export trade was \$15,071,951 (£3,014,390). In the corresponding period of the years 1912 and 1913 the records were \$13,399,562 (£2,679,912) and \$14,870,866 (£2,975,973) respectively.

All these figures show the amount of floating trade to be found in the West Indies. And it is quite clear that if the United States choose to exert themselves—as they will—they can go a great way towards capturing derelict German trade in that quarter of the British Dominions. Certainly the States and Canada together can fill the gap, and if they get the first place in it they will not easily be dislodged. Here, as elsewhere, the race is to the swift. So far as the States themselves are concerned the war has already brought them many economic advantages. They have been quick to perceive that there is only one nation industrially developed on a sufficiently large scale to take possession of the export trade which must be curtailed, if not wholly destroyed for the time being, for such of the belligerents in the

European War as are manufacturers for the world's markets. That nation is themselves; for, with all her vast natural resources, Canada has not yet brought her powers sufficiently to maturity to be able to take full grasp of the opportunity. There are, for instance, a number of necessities which she is not yet in a position to produce for herself. Most certainly, therefore, she cannot supply them to the world. But in all the things that she can bring to market she is keen and alert, and the States will find no more aggressive rival than their young and vigorous neighbour.

It is these elements in the new commercial problem that the British merchant and manufacturer need to watch and study very closely. Judged by the industrial drift, it is the evident design of the States to export less raw cotton and more cotton goods. More manufactures of metal, more fabrics and more foodstuffs are also essential in expanding American overseas commerce, and the raw materials in these cases would likewise become a reduced export. What is now happening is that the American manufacturers are monopolising their own domestic field, and are pushing into the external trade arena as well. By all the signs, their factories and workshops have been vastly stimulated. They believe in an American vogue, and are proceeding on the principle that if foreign customers can be made familiar with the merits of American wares a permanent American market will in every case become the result. Meanwhile, they are in possession of a very large share of British West Indian trade.

THE announcement that the Hon. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., Colonial Secretary of the Windward Islands, is likely to retire has caused widespread regret in that colony. Although he had been marooned for nine years in Turks Islands, where, by the way, he did excellent work as the finances of the dependency show, his appointment to the Windward Islands last year led to the hope that he had a long and useful Colonial career before him.

REGULATIONS have been issued in the various West Indian colonies providing that Certificates of Origin, in prescribed form, must accompany all goods imported from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, and Italy, with the exception of food-stuffs, timber of any kind, strawboard, wood pulp, iron ore, granite, ice, tar, or carbide of calcium, and of goods not exceeding £25 in value in respect of individual consignments. Goods for exportation to any foreign places in Europe or on the Mediterranean or Black Seas, with the exception of those situated in Russia, Belgium, France, Spain, and Portugal, will not be allowed to be shipped until Declarations of Ultimate Destination, in prescribed form, have been lodged with the proper Customs authority. It is provided, however, that the following goods (a) Goods shipped under licence and (b) Goods shipped from the Colony on or before the 15th March, and hitherto exempted, shall be exempted from these requirements.

## CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

### Mr. Watson Griffin's Report.

In 1913 Mr. Watson Griffin was appointed by the Government of the Dominion of Canada Special Trade Commissioner to visit the West Indies and report upon the prospects of the development of trade with those colonies. He left for the West Indies in January, 1914, and returned to Canada in October; his report has, however, been delayed owing to an accident which temporarily disabled him. It has now been completed and will in due course be published by the Department of Trade and Commerce of the Dominion, with many illustrations.

Meanwhile a summary of the results of Mr. Griffin's investigation is being published in the Weekly Report, issued by the Department. In the first instalment, Mr. Griffin produces figures to show that the West Indian markets are far more easy of access to the Maritime Provinces than Western Canada is, the rates from Montreal to Trinidad, for example, being considerably lower than those from Montreal to Winnipeg, Regina, and other cities in Western Canada. He reminds us that transportation by water is very much cheaper than railway.

The trade of 1913 having been affected by the drought of the preceding year he takes the figures of the imports of the West Indies for 1912 as representative of the ordinary conditions and shows that in that year the total imports of merchandise of the colonies that are now giving Canada a preference amounted to \$44,237,839, of which the imports for home consumption amounted to \$30,565,066, while West Indian colonies outside the Trade Agreement imported merchandise for home consumption to the value of \$13,458,547 and exported \$10,637,813. Including the transshipment trade the figures would be much higher, and Mr. Griffin does not see why Canada should not secure a considerable share of the trade in goods trans-shipped at Trinidad for South America and in British Guiana for Dutch Guiana and French Guiana. He notes that the people of the colonies that joined in the Canada-West Indies preferential agreement spent on imported articles for home consumption the year following the last census, about \$27.95 per head of population, while Jamaica and the Bahamas, which have not joined in the preferential agreement, spent about \$17.82 per head of population.

It is very fortunate, says Mr. Griffin, that the preferential agreement is for ten years as this is a long enough period to test its merits. As the preferential arrangement did not go into effect until June, 1913, only a little over half the trade of the calendar year 1913 was under its influence and it was a bad year for a start because it followed a drought that affected both imports and exports of the West Indies. Nevertheless, Canada made a very good beginning in increasing its sales to the British West Indies, especially exports of flour, which is given a very sub-

stantial preference. The trade of the calendar year 1914 was very seriously affected by the war and there is no doubt that the trade of the year 1915 will also be affected. Mr. Griffin knows of one case where a large Canadian flour mill refused good West Indian orders for flour after the war broke out and a traveller who was having great success in getting business was called home.

Mr. Griffin thinks that, on the whole, the British West Indies will suffer no great loss during the war and if it is brought to a conclusion before the end of the year 1915 the following year is likely to be a banner one for those colonies.

It should be noted that in addition to the colonies whose representatives originally signed the preferential agreement Grenada afterwards accepted its terms, so there is no break in the preferential chain extending from British Guiana to the Virgin Islands. If Bermuda would come in there would be a continuous preferential chain from Canada to the borders of the equator.

The value of the trade of the British West Indies to Canada cannot be calculated by simply counting the imports of last year or the year before. The natural resources and wealth producing capacity of these colonies have yet to be developed. They are capable of supporting many times their present population and the trade of the future will be vastly greater than that of to-day. But if Canadians wait until these colonies have been fully developed and their trade established in other channels it will be very difficult to divert it to Canada.

Sir Daniel Morris, formerly Commissioner of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who is recognised to be an authority on tropical agriculture, has estimated that after making full allowance for swamps, rocky and other useless lands and for forest reservations, there are at least twenty million acres of fertile land in the British West Indies not yet beneficially occupied, whereas the area under cultivation is only about a million and a half acres. Moreover the land that is under cultivation is in many cases not fully cultivated and its production could be greatly increased.

### Another Trade Commissioner's Report.

To the annual review of the work of the Canadian Commercial Intelligence Service published by authority of Sir George E. Foster, K.C.M.G., Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. E. H. S. Flood contributes an interesting report on the British West Indies.

Mr. Flood holds the view that the opening of the Panama Canal will prove of much value to these colonies, and he discusses the possibility of trade between them and British Columbia.

The requirements of the British West Indies for lumber amount in value to £450,000, and all the colonies give a preference to Canadian lumber, except Jamaica. Of the other islands of the Caribbean that are not parties to the agreement, the largest importer is Cuba, and next in importance

Porto Rico. The lumber required for all the islands is substantially of the same character and variety. The total value of the trade amounts to well over a million and a half. Canada is at present getting but a small proportion of this trade, but from its value it would appear, says Mr. Flood, to be well worth trying for. The value of the import of lumber into this part of the world is given in the following table :

British West Indies, about ... ..	450,000
Cuba ... ..	694,455
Porto Rico (wood and wood manufactures)	442,658
Curacao ... ..	3,245
San Domingo ... ..	81,750
Martinique ... ..	25,790
Caracas ... ..	30,000
St. Thomas ... ..	4,462

£1,732,369

### West Indian Produce for British Columbia.

From the West Indian standpoint it is of greater interest to know that the success of any enterprise that would give an outlet for British Columbia lumber to the West Indies would depend almost entirely on the securing return cargoes from them. This opens up the possibility of West Indian sugar and other products entering the western provinces of Canada—a fresh market which would be of great advantage, as has been so often pointed out in these columns, provided that freights are reasonable. Mr. Flood also looks for return cargo from Cuba, Porto Rico and San Domingo, but only such as was receiving a preference under the Agreement, and this subject is already receiving proper attention in British Columbia.

Referring to trade between Germany and Austria and the British West Indies, Mr. Flood very properly points out that official statistics are not quite reliable as to the country of origin. The effect of the Preference Agreement on the Customs returns will be, however, that in future much more accurate statements will be made.

Dealing with the effects of the trade agreement Mr. Flood shows that during 1914 Canadian flour practically captured the West Indian market.

The gradual growth of the Canadian flour trade with the West Indies has been interesting to follow. A few years ago the importation from Canada was small, and the flour was criticised on the ground chiefly that it went off in quality in the Tropics. It was apparent that an improvement was taking place from year to year, and the imports began to increase. When the Preference came into effect in June 1913, the quantity of flour coming from Canada kept pace with the increased total import. "Canadian flour had therefore at that time proved itself to possess the qualities requisite for these markets, and to be in fact of equal quality to that coming from any other country. It was only necessary therefore to change the channel of trade by a tariff preference which, effected at the proper moment, appears to have given the market to Canada. At the end of the year the statement of imports will no doubt be

very gratifying to firms in the Canadian flour trade, as the following tables covering the nine months up to September 30, supplied by the Customs Department in the three larger islands, would seem to indicate " :—

	TRINIDAD.		BARBADOS.		BRITISH GUIANA	
	1913 brls.	1914 brls.	1913 brls.	1914 brls.	1913 brls.	1914 brls.
Canada	83,761	160,955	22,817	35,372	61,387	113,003
U.S.A	112,258	47,040	13,715	3,648	65,010	34,367
Others	3,731	24	65	25	680	56
Total	199,750	208,019	36,597	39,045	127,077	147,426

Mr. Edgar Tripp, Commercial Agent for the Dominion in Trinidad, also furnishes a report which bears testimony to the increased interest shown by Canadian manufacturers in the West Indian trade. During a single month estimates of the sugar and molasses crop of 1915 were asked for and supplied ; particulars were afforded of the piano trade ; of the present prices of all kinds of paints ; regarding reinforced concrete ; the market for lumber, canned fish, flour, cocoa and coco-nuts ; drugs and chemicals ; asphalt roofing ; handles ; full details of the hat trade ; hoisting engines and other machinery ; swings and wooden furniture for bungalows, etc. A correspondent who stated that he intended travelling for business purposes during the coming winter wrote for advice regarding the class of goods for which he should bring samples from the different manufacturers he was representing. All these inquiries have increased in number since the outbreak of the war and the elimination of the German trade.

OWING to the increase in their business since the Canadian-West Indian trade agreement came into force the West India Company, Ltd., of Montreal have found it necessary to move into larger premises. Their new address is 428 and 429 Coristine Building, Lemoine Street, Montreal.

THE rations of rum to the troops in the trenches have been stopped. When the announcement was made it was received with a silence which spoke more than words. The actions of a few decadent workmen have thus not only resulted in a shortage of ammunition, but has also deprived them of a solace which was of inestimable service to them.

MR. ROBERT RUTHERFORD, who has been elected a Director of the Colonial Bank has been Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee since 1909, when he succeeded the late Sir Henry Davson. He is partner in the firm of Wilkinson and Gaviller, one of the oldest in the West Indian trade, and has been a Treasurer of the Committee since 1898. Mr. Edward Gouling, who has also joined the Board of the Bank, has represented Worcestershire in Parliament as a Unionist since 1908. He is Chairman of the Constitutional Club and Treasurer of the United Club.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

[Enclosure.]

## The Possibilities of its Expansion.

## II.—SUGAR CULTIVATION IN FIJI.

Towards the close of last year we wrote to the Governments of the principal British cane-sugar producing colonies to ask what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry in their respective localities. In last issue we published the reply received from Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana, who forwarded a memorandum from Professor J. B. Harrison, Director of Agriculture, showing that 2,500,000 tons of sugar or sufficient to meet the needs of the United Kingdom every year could be produced in that colony alone. We now publish a despatch received from Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., Governor of Fiji.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Suva, Fiji, 30th December, 1914.

Sir,

I am directed by Governor Sir Bickham Escott to acknowledge the receipt on the 13th instant of your letter No. 567 of the 23rd October last, asking to be supplied with figures showing

- (1) The actual acreage of land in Fiji suitable and available for cane-sugar cultivation, and
- (2) The approximate amount of sugar which the Colony would be capable of producing with its existing labour supply.

2. I am to transmit to you, for the information of the West India Committee, a copy of a report by the Commissioner of Lands and the Superintendent of Agriculture, containing the information applied for, and I am to enclose a map illustrating the report of those two officers.\*

3. I am to add that, in the Governor's opinion, there is no reason why the land referred to in the enclosed report should not be placed under sugar cultivation with advantage not only to the Colony but to capitalists who may be prepared to invest their money in extending the sugar industry in Fiji. I am to point out, however, that the Governor considers that it is an indispensable condition, not only of the expansion of the sugar industry but also of its continuance on its present scale, that there should be no interference with existing arrangements for obtaining from India a supply of suitable labourers. As the decision on that point rests with His Majesty's Government, I am to suggest that your Committee should apply to the Colonial Office for information as to whether the present source of the Colony's labour supply will be continued or not.

I am, etc.,

The Secretary, EYRE HUTSON,  
The West India Committee, *Colonial Secretary.*  
15, Seething Lane, London E.C.

\* The map, which is not reproduced, can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

To  
The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary.

Lands Department,  
Suva, 19th December, 1914.

Sir,

As directed by His Excellency the Governor (1) we have the honour to submit the following joint report upon the possibility of expanding the production of sugar in Fiji.

2. The existing mills in the Colony are five in number and their nominal daily output is as follows:—

	Tons dried sugar.
Nausori, Rewa	195
Rarawai, Ba	125
Labasa	100
Lautoka	142
Tamanua	60
Penang	40

3. The last mill is the only small mill now existing in the Colony although at one time there were many of that capacity, but none of them were commercial successes.

4. It will be desirable then for us to refer first to possible schemes involving the erection of crushing mills of a capacity of not less than sixty tons dried sugar per day.

5. There are two such schemes in the Colony (a) on the Tailevu coast in Vitilevu, and (b) on the Dreketi river in Vanuailevu.

6. (a) *The Tailevu coast.* From the Waidilici river in a northerly direction to the Drekeniwaikania creek there are several creeks on the banks of which excellent cane land is to be found, while along the coast and at the mouths of the creeks, flats of considerable area are met with. The areas of the blocks of cane land vary in size from 50 to 200 acres and give a total of 7,485 acres. They can be tapped by a railway—main and branch line of 40 miles.

7. This area of 7,485 acres is situated as follows:—

1,028 acres on the Waimaro.
748 acres on the Wainivesi.
685 acres on the Waibula.
667 acres at Sawakasa.
440 acres on the Lodonii.
372 acres on the Nubukuna.
1,144 acres on the Drekeniwaikania.
2,401 acres coast flats at the mouth of the Waidilici.

7,485

Of this area at present there are now under cultivation only about 1,000 acres chiefly by banana planters. All this would be, we think, available for cane cultivation in the event of a mill being erected.

8. Of the total area about 1,218 acres are freehold property, 2,617 are held on native leasehold by Europeans, and the balance of 3,550 is claimed by natives.

9. The best site for a mill for this block would probably be found to be at Tailevu point close to a deep water anchorage sheltered by Qumu island.

10. (b) *Dreketi River scheme.* The second scheme referred to in paragraph 5 affords an area of land suited for cane cultivation of 12,000 acres made up of 9,000 acres in patches of varying size between the Dreketi river and the North coastal range of the island. 1,000 acres on the Dreketi river itself and 2,000 acres coastal flats at the mouth of the river.

11. To tap this area it would be necessary to construct about 26 miles of main line and 13 miles of branch line.

12. Of the 12,000 acres less than 1,000 acres are now under cultivation.

13. The 9,000 acres referred to in paragraph 10 is all unused land claimed by natives while the 1,000 acres of

the river and 2,000 acres at the mouth are European owned.

14. A convenient mill site for this block would be at the mouth of the river on European owned land. It would be about 3 miles from a good deep water anchorage at Nandongo island reached through the Dreketi Delta navigable at high tide for 100 ton barges.

15. The area now under sugar cane cultivation in this Colony was estimated to be 48,208 acres which produced 94,709 tons of sugar in 1913.

16. On this basis the adoption of the two proposals above outlined would increase the output of sugar for Fiji as below :—

	Tons.
Talevu .....	14,497
Dreketi .....	23,575
Tons of sugar ... 38,072	

17. We know of no other places in Fiji affording suitable blocks of land of such large areas as to justify the erection of cane mills of the capacity of the first four mills given in paragraph 2.

**SMALLER SCHEMES.**

18. If, however, the price of cane sugar were to rise sufficiently to enable mills of a smaller capacity say 20 to 40 tons of sugar per day working blocks of cane land of from 2,000 to 4,000 acres each, to work at a profit, then we estimate that a further area of 20,000 acres of land now uncultivated could be utilized and the sugar production be further raised by 39,291 tons. Those blocks are as follow :—

- 4,000 acres at Ra at the head of the Wainibuka river.
- 2,000 acres in Savusavu east.
- 1,000 acres in Natewa Bay West.
- 2,000 acres in Natewa Bay East.
- 3,000 acres in Wainunu.
- 2,000 acres in the upper Sigatoka River.
- 5,000 acres in the Rewa Delta.

20,000 acres total.

19. The two last areas could conveniently form extensions for existing mills if labour conditions remain favourable.

**LABOUR.**

20. The labour required to work the two large areas described in paragraphs 5 to 16 may be reckoned at one man to 4 acres including those employed in the mills and on the feeder railways so that 4,871 labourers would be necessary.

21. The labourers at present employed in growing sugar cane are practically all Indians under 5 years' indenture. A relatively small number are induced to re-indenture, while some find employment as free labourers.

In addition to these some quantity of cane is raised by Indian growers who are settled on estates, or on Government Settlements, or who take up leases on their own account.

22. Fresh labourers are introduced each year to fill vacancies as indentures expire : an arrangement which we consider to be absolutely essential not only in view of any possible extension of the sugar industry, but also to keep the industry in its present condition. We assume that the term "existing labour supply" in paragraph 2 of enclosure (1) covers not only the labourers now in the group but those who will in due course be introduced from time to time from India, both to replace time-expired coolies and to provide for extension of the industry.

23. The number of persons of any classes now engaged in the production of sugar cane, will be required continuously, to keep up the present supply for the mills. The

opening up of new areas therefore can only be successfully accomplished by utilizing supplies of labourers not engaged in the production of sugar cane at the present time.

It is possible that some estates now producing other crops such as bananas may be devoted to the cultivation of cane, and such estates may be either in existing sugar districts or in the new cane areas. In the former case they will merely provide additional cane for existing mills : one factor in the fluctuation in output of the various mills from year to year.

24. In the latter case the labourers on such estates would go to reduce the number required mentioned in paragraph 20. This number, however, would be small, and since they are now sugar growers a continuous supply must be provided for.

There are numbers of free Indians settled on small blocks of native land, Government Settlements or European owned land, who make a living of growing such crops as rice, bananas, vegetables, or by keeping dairies.

25. It is possible that some of these would be available for settlement in small blocks in new sugar cane areas, but many of these people seem to prefer their rather hard to mouth method of existence to any regular employment or the hard and continuous work that cane growing would entail, unless the prospects were sufficiently attractive. The free coolie employed on day wages gets on an average about 1s. 5d. per day. To induce these men to embark on steady employment in sugar cane growing it may be necessary, we think, to raise the wages to 2s. a day. This entails an extra cost of production of sugar of 17s. 6d. a ton. An alternative method of employing free labour would be to prepare the land, manure it and plant the crop, leaving the settler to cultivate and reap it, under contract.

This latter is a method now being tried by one at least of the existing sugar companies.

The native Fijian at one time grew considerable quantities of cane to pay his taxes, but in recent years he has ceased to do so, and he now draws such large sums in rent of lands that we think it would be difficult to induce him to take any active part in cane production and we feel bound to consider him negligible as a possible cane producer.

If it is considered desirable to illustrate this report by a map indicating the position of the areas referred to herein the Commissioner of Lands will be pleased to supply one.

(Signed) DYSON BLAIR,  
Commissioner of Lands.  
(Signed) C. H. KNOWLES,  
Superintendent of Agriculture.

FOR forty years the bêche-de-mer industry of the Bahamas has been in abeyance, but recently, according to the Journal of the Society of Arts a shipment, valued at £8,000, has been made to Chinese ports. As our readers know, this delicacy, so greatly appreciated in China, consists of the sea-slug preserved by drying. The sea-slug of the waters of the Bahamas appears to be of a higher quality as compared with those of the East Indies and the atolls of Polynesia, and with the facilities for shipping to the East via the Panama Canal, the Bahamas may in the near future be able to re-create an important industry. The bêche-de-mer, it may be remarked, is not unappreciated in Paris.

## CANE EXPERIMENTS IN NATAL.

### How West Indian Seedlings Fare in Africa.

Mr. E. Harrison, Principal of the School of Agriculture of Cedara, is contributing to the *Agricultural News and Planters' Gazette* of Natal some interesting articles on the results of sugar cane experiments on the Winkel Spruit Experiment Farm.

The only variety of sugar cane grown to any large extent at the present time in Natal is, he states, the Uba, and although it is not altogether a very satisfactory type from a milling point of view, it meets with great favour by the planters, and is the only one that has hitherto stood successfully the ravages of frost and drought, as well as the various fungoid and animal pests met with in the sub-tropical areas of this Province. Still, it is not reasonable to hope that the Uba will indefinitely continue to be the satisfactory cropper and be as free from disease as it is at the present time. For these reasons

the late Natal Government, in co-operation with some of the planters' associations, from time to time introduced from various sources other varieties which would be most likely to flourish under local conditions.

Of the 14 varieties of cane given below, the first ten were introduced some twelve years ago, the majority being from the West Indies and Guiana. Several other varieties were also introduced at the same time, but for various reasons they have been discarded. The three Java varieties, Java Nos. 105 and 147 and Cheribon were obtained in March, 1909, from Egypt, as representing the best types of cane grown in that country. The Indian cane (Agaul, from Sultanpur) is only one variety out of nine supplied in 1911 by the Inspector-General of Agriculture in India, the remaining eight having made but poor growth.

The results obtained in connection with the plant canes in the variety plots are given in the following table:—

Results from the Variety Plots, Winkel Spruit, in November, 1913.

Variety of Cane.	Weight of Cane per acre in tons.	Percentage of juice by mill.	Quotient of Purity.	Composition of normal juice.					
				In lbs. per gallon.			Glucose Ratio	Gallons of juice per acre.	Sucrose in lbs. per acre.
				Sucrose.	Glucose.	Solids not Sugar.			
Antigua B. 15	23½	63.7	94.4	2.19	0.029	0.101	1.33	2740	6010
Demerara D. 74	28½	68.8	95.4	1.99	0.023	0.074	1.16	3623	7200
" D. 95	16	61.4	95.1	2.14	0.025	0.085	1.15	1810	3880
" D. 109	29½	65.7	95.9	2.20	0.022	0.373	1.01	3560	7810
" D. 145	23½	60.2	92.6	2.02	0.047	0.114	2.33	2610	5260
" D. 625	35	65.3	93.8	2.14	0.047	0.095	2.18	4130	8860
Queensland No. 2	23½	61.8	92.6	2.22	0.026	0.152	1.16	2680	5960
" No. 3	24½	65.4	93.5	2.04	0.022	0.119	1.09	2980	6080
Honolulu Rose Bamboo	28½	64.0	94.2	2.00	0.030	0.093	1.51	3370	6740
Horne	14	68.3	93.1	2.09	0.034	0.116	1.64	1760	3660
Java No. 105		62.2	92.2	1.86	0.031	0.123	1.65		
" No. 147		60.7	91.6	1.71	0.038	0.119	2.23		
Cheribon		66.3	87.4	1.62	0.050	0.184	3.07		
Agaul (from Sultanpur)		62.0	86.2	1.61	0.038	0.220	2.31		

The following detailed information supplied by the Farm Manager at Winkel Spruit, with regard to the different varieties of cane, will be of interest:—

1. Antigua B. 15.—A healthy-looking cane of rather drooping habit, liable to attack from cane borers, the percentage loss of crop from this cause being about 2 per cent. It has given only a moderate crop, stools badly, and is hardly likely to prove of economic value in Natal.

2. Demerara D. 74.—This cane gives a moderately good yield, and is less liable to the attack of the cane borers than some of the other Demerara varieties. It still maintains its superiority over most of the other types, but the percentage of sucrose in the juice is, however, lower than in any of the other Demerara canes tested.

3. Demerara D. 95.—Gave a very low yield of cane, but probably this was largely due to unfavourable soil conditions. The canes were short in length and produced rather short internodes. It showed a great tendency to form adventitious roots and incipient shoots. The cane was attacked by the borer, the loss being about 5 per cent. It does not stool well, and on the whole is an unsatisfactory variety.

4. Demerara D. 109.—This is a satisfactory cane, stools moderately well, and gave a good yield.

5. Demerara D. 145.—Gave only a moderate crop and does not stool satisfactorily. Very unsatisfactory also in yield and richness of juice.

6. Demerara D. 625.—This cane is exceptionally stout and upright with long internodes, but was unfortunately attacked by borer, the loss amounting approximately to 10 per cent. It is the heaviest cropper of all the varieties tested, and yields a good percentage of juice of fairly high density. It is worthy of trial on a more extensive scale.

7. Queensland No. 2.—A stout cane producing rather poor stools, and with a low percentage of juice.

8. Queensland No. 3.—A thin cane, but with better stools than No. 2. Both the Queensland canes may be classed as moderate in qualities of growth and production.

9. Honolulu Rose Bamboo.—A thin cane of slightly drooping habit, fairly healthy, and possessing long internodes. Fairly satisfactory as regards yield and stooling qualities, but suffered slightly from borer attack.

10. Horne.—Gave disappointing results, the yield being very poor. This cane is short, stools badly, is given to the undesirable production of roots from the nodes, and the eyes show a strong tendency to sprout. It was attacked by borer, the loss amounting to roughly 5 per cent. It is evidently not suited to the present environment.

11, 12, and 13. The Java Varieties (from Egypt.—Pro-



duced very poor results, judging by the yields from the small areas tested. With the exception of the variety Cheribon, the yield of juice was disappointing and the percentage of sucrose was also very low. It is, however, necessary to state that the land in which they were planted was very unsatisfactory in texture, and as a result of this only about 30 per cent of the plant cane germinated. All the three varieties are healthy in appearance, stout, and possess long internodes. They ratoon well and are remarkably free from adventitious roots and incipient shoots.

14. Agaul (from Sultampur).—This is the only variety of the Indian canes that showed any promise at all, but both in yield and milling qualities it has hitherto proved to be much inferior to the Demerara varieties.

### CACAO FERMENTING IN CEYLON.

Experiments in fermenting cacao are proceeding at the Peradeniya Experiment Station in Ceylon. In a report published in the *Tropical Agriculturist* Mr. D. S. Corlett, the manager, states that owing to the continuous rains the drying room had to be used in October, and that it proved inadequate to deal with the heavy crop.

The old method of adding the vinegar from one vat of fermenting cacao to the new vat for fermentation, was tried again, in order to hasten and to obtain a more equal fermentation throughout. But in this case the vinegar was warmed to a temperature of 78 per cent. before being added to the cacao, in order not to check the fermentation, when once started. As one vat will not yield sufficient vinegar, the same amount of water is added and mixed with the vinegar. The cacao is not removed from the vats at all during this process, but the vinegar and water well stirred in by being lightly trampled on. Thus an even temperature of 87 per cent. is maintained throughout the 64 hours of fermentation. The cacao received two additions of vinegar and water at a ratio of about 3 gallons of mixed vinegar and water to about 700 lbs. of wet cacao.

Samples of cacao treated in this manner and by the ordinary method of adding cold water have been submitted to Messrs. Keell and Waldoek, who reported that "Of the two samples of cacao you sent us for our report, in our opinion the sample cured by your usual method is decidedly the better both in break and in general appearance. In the sample cured by cacao vinegar the break is soft and dull in colour, and the dull appearance of the bean prevents it from passing as No. 1 quality."

The young cacao in the hill-side plot has been well mulched with *Tephrosia candida* and dadap, leaving the former uncut round each plant to form a wind screen and shade. Four rounds of pickings have taken place, yielding a heavy crop. The second picking in November, owing to the continual wet weather yielded 25 per cent of fungus pods.

The practice of continually picking off and burying the fungus pods, as generally carried out on estates, has not been followed. It seems the percentage of fungus on some estates has been very high, in spite of picking. Fungus pods are only gathered during the ordinary rounds of picking,

once in three weeks, and buried with lime. 700 bamboo pots have been planted with selected Forastero seeds to fill up vacancies in all plots next year.

### LOOKING BACK.

#### X.—The West India Committee and the Cacao Industry.

In last issue we published a resolution adopted in 1821 and correspondence which subsequently passed between the West India Committee and the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade regarding the use of British produced cacao by the Navy. This may be suitably supplemented by the following extracts from the minutes of the Committee for March 4th, 1825.

Resolved,

That to promote the object of the melioration of the Condition of the Slave Population of the British West India Colonies, it is expedient that the Cultivation of Cocoa should be encouraged, the manual labour required in its production being trifling.

That to obtain this end, two means present themselves; viz., a preference in the Supply of the Navy over foreign cocoa and a reduction of the duty for home Consumption.

That such preference was directed by the Right Honble. the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations to be given to Cocoa the produce of the British Colonies whenever any new Contract should be entered into for the Supply of His Majesty's Navy and appears by a communication from Mr. Lack to Mr. Hibbert dated the 19th September, 1821.

That in consequence of such directions the Culture of Cocoa was extended in Some of the British Colonies in order to meet the expected increased demand.

That the quantity of British Plantation Cocoa in the Ware House of the West India Dock Company alone on the 23rd July last was upwards of 250 tons and was further increased on the 30th Oct: last to 322 tons.

That foreign Cocoa the produce of nations carrying on the Slave Trade was substituted for that of the British West India Islands in two late Contracts taken by the Honble. Victualling Boards in July and November last for 80 and 100 tons respectively.

That this substitution by the Honble. Victualling Board of Cocoa of foreign production is felt to be an excessive hardship upon the British Planters and especially upon those who encouraged by the declaration of His Majesty's Government in September 1821 have applied themselves to the Cultivation of that Article.

That the reduction of the duty on Cocoa would, as well as in the instance of Coffee, probably be beneficial to the revenue by the increased Consumption that would naturally take place.

That these resolutions be submitted to His Majesty's Ministers for their consideration.

On March 25th the Chairman reported that "he had received from Mr. Clayton Freeling, by order of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, an intimation that it was merely an accidental omission the not announcing a reduction of the duty on Cocoa which was intended to be similar to that on coffee."

Mr. H. GODRICH, for many years manager of Vreed en Hoop, British Guiana, has been appointed to Mopea in Portuguese East Africa, where Messrs. Hornung and Co. have large sugar plantations.

### COPRA IN INDIA.

The export trade in Indian copra was, before the war, mainly with Germany. The total exports in 1913-14, says the *Indian Trade Journal* for March 18th, were worth £1,040,000 of which over £650,000 went to Germany. The outbreak of war therefore resulted in a sudden loss of the greater portion of this valuable trade. An increasing amount of interest, however, is being taken in the crushing of copra in the United Kingdom, and for this and other reasons, the trade has partially revived, and the position at the present time is not nearly so serious as was at first anticipated.

The trade in copra is one which will become of increasing importance to India. Reliable statistics are, unfortunately, not available, but as far as can be ascertained the total exports, foreign and coastwise, from the Madras Presidency (for practical purposes this is the only part of India that need be considered) in 1913-14 were:—

Copra	875,000 cwt.
Coco-nut oil	4,446,000 galls.
Coco-nuts	38 million

It has been estimated that with the ordinary country mill 1,000 nuts produce 210 lbs. of oil, or 300 lbs. of copra; and 12 gallons represent 1 cwt. of coco-nut oil. The export of 4,446,000 gallons of coco-nut oil, therefore, represents the consumption of about 529,000 cwt. of copra, so that the total exports of (1) copra and (2) coco-nut oil, expressed in terms of copra, work out to 875,000 + 529,000 cwt. = 1,404,000 cwt. These figures, however, only represent exports, foreign and coastwise, from British ports in South India; they include Cochin but not Alleppey and one or two minor Travancore ports. Allowing for these, it may be said roughly that the production of copra for export, whether in the form of copra or in the form of coco-nut oil, from South India is about 1,500,000 cwt., representing the produce of about 600 million nuts.

Now turning to local consumption, the acreage under coco-nuts in British territory is roughly estimated at 550,000 acres; to this has to be added a large area in Travancore and Cochin States, bringing the total up to something like 800,000 acres. It may be stated that 1,500 nuts an acre is a fairly moderate estimate for the West Coast where most of the coco-nut land lies. Allowing for East Coast plantations and bad gardens this may be scaled down to 1,250 nuts an acre which means that the total annual output may be reckoned at 1,000 million nuts. We have shown above that the produce of 600 million nuts is sent out of South India to other parts of India and to foreign countries. The remainder (400 million) remains for local consumption, and if we assume (admittedly a large assumption) that three-quarters of this remainder are turned into copra (and from copra into coco-nut oil) we get a local production, not exported, of about 800,000 cwt.

of copra. On this basis the total production of copra in South India may be estimated at 1,500,000 + 800,000 cwt., or 115,000 tons. It will be readily recognised, however, that this estimate is extremely rough.

### MOTOR SPIRIT FROM THE SUGAR CANE.

#### Its Manufacture in India Advocated.

In a paper which he recently read on the sugar industry in Mysore, Mr. Alfred Chatterton stated that in the South of India where a sufficient supply of water was available all the year round, the climatic conditions were favourable to the growth of very heavy crops, and there was not the least doubt that sugar could be produced there as cheaply as in any other part of the world. So long as they were manufacturing "jaggery" the question of disposing of the molasses did not arise, and it was possible that "jaggery" would always be able to hold its own against sugar. But even if it were ultimately to succumb, and there should be the molasses problem to solve, it was not likely to prove a serious one. At no very distant date it seemed likely that some other form of liquid fuel would be required to supplement the supplies of petrol. It seemed hardly likely that any better substitute would be found than ethyl alcohol, which could be manufactured either from the juice of the cane or from molasses by processes which were familiar. The price of petrol was rising, and it was bound to continue to rise till this form of alcohol could compete with it on equal terms. The alcohol would have to be denatured, and the best method of doing this was by the addition of methyl alcohol, one of the products of wood distillation. This question was engaging the attention of the Department of Industries, and he thought it not unlikely that within a very few years they might be able in Mysore to produce a sufficient quantity of both these forms of alcohol to render the State independent of foreign sources of supply of fuel for high-speed internal combustion engines, and that they would also find a valuable market in other parts of India for any surplus that they might have to dispose of.

ARRANGEMENTS are well advanced for the utilisation of some of the steamers now on the Great Lakes in Canada for the West Indian trade when navigation is reopened in the St. Lawrence.

MR. CHEWTON ATCHLEY, C.M.G., I.S.O., who has just retired from the position of Librarian of the Colonial Office, which he filled with conspicuous ability for no fewer than thirty-five years, edited the second edition of the volume of Lucas's Historical Geography of the British Colonies devoted to the West Indies. A genial and accessible official, he will be much missed in Downing Street, and he will carry with him into his retirement the good wishes of many friends.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below :

- Batson, Sub-Lieut. R. E., (son of Mr. Batson of Barbados), was probationary surgeon on H.M.S. *Bayana* when she was torpedoed. He was fortunately saved and is now in H.M.S. *Lawford*.
- Bekett, Lieut. Edgar, (Agricultural Adviser to S. Davson & Sons), British Guiana Militia.
- Busutil, Frank A., (son of the late Captain M. Busutil, Leicestershire Regiment, and grandson of the late Lieut. Colonel Hon. C. J. Ward, of Jamaica), Despatch rider attached to 9th Hampshire Regiment.
- Cameron, and Lieut. Cedric Wilson, (son of Mr. S. Cameron, Director of Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell and Co., and late of Demerara), 6th King's Liverpool Rifles.
- Cecil, Mr. H. C., (late of British Guiana), 3rd Officer H.M.S. *Petroleum*. Royal Navy Auxiliary Service.
- Clare, Captain, British Guiana Militia.
- Clemens, Surgeon, (only son of Rev. Theodore L. Clemens, Tobago), H.M.S. *Defence*.
- Colston, Lennard, (only son of Mrs. Jane Colston, of Tobago), Scottish Horse.
- Cox, H. C. F., (youngest son of Sir Charles T. Cox, K.C.M.G., late Government Secretary, British Guiana), Staff Officer, Local Forces, New Amsterdam, British Guiana.
- Everington, Lieut. Francis E., (of Dominica), Army Service Corps.
- Gideon, Dr. Cyril, (son of Hon. D. S. Gideon, M.L.C., Port Antonio, Jamaica), Lieut., Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Jaing, Lieut. M. B., (son of Mr. J. B. Jaing, of the Royal Bank of Canada), British Guiana Artillery.
- Lawes, Captain E. F., (son-in-law of Mr. Alfred Pawsey, J.P., of Kingston, Jamaica), 3rd Battalion Hampshire Regiment.
- May, Major Cecil, (Deputy Inspector General of Police, British Guiana).
- Mimett, Surgeon-Captain, Royal Army Medical Corps, and British Guiana Artillery.
- Mossman, Bertie A., (son of Mr. H. L. Mossman, Agricultural Intractor, St. Catherine, Jamaica). Has joined Kitchener's Army.
- Murtland, C., Commandant Local Forces, New Amsterdam, British Guiana.
- Nosworthy, Captain, (son of Mr. R. Nosworthy, Supervisor of Revenue, Jamaica), attached to the Indian Army. *At the Front. Mentioned in Despatches.*
- Pile, Lieut. C. G. K., British Guiana Militia.
- Porter, H. Langley, (son of the late Mr. W. C. Porter, Half-Way Tree, Jamaica), 5th Victoria Regiment, 3rd Canadian Contingent.
- Reid, Captain and Adjutant J. M., 3/4th Black Watch (Territorial).
- Roe, Private R. K. H., (son of Mr. C. H. Roe, planter, St. James, Jamaica, and grandson of Colonel Richard Roe, Montego Bay, Jamaica), 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Contingent.
- Russell, Dr. T. (late Port Officer, Port Antonio, Jamaica), Lieut., Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Saunders, and Lieut. F. A. R., (son of Dr. Frank Saunders, of Kingston, Jamaica), Army Service Corps.
- Seager, Captain R., British Guiana Militia.

- Shawe, Ernest, (cousin of Mr. J. D. Hatt, Tobago), Chief Officer, Coastguard at Deal.
- Stevenson, 2nd Lieut. E. Peel, (youngest son of Canon Stevenson), The Royal Engineers.
- Stevenson, 2nd Lieut. John, (only son of the late Inspector Stevenson), 10th (Service) Battalion, Norfolk Regiment.
- Symons, Private A. M., (son of Mr. W. R. Symons of Antigua), Universities and Public School Corps, Royal Fusiliers.
- Wilson, George Henry, (of Tobago), 3rd Canadian Contingent.

### Alterations and Corrections.

- Fryer, Captain F. E., (brother of Mr. C. H. B. Fryer, of the New Schoon Ord Plantation Company, Ltd.), Royal Garrison Artillery and Royal Flying Corps has been interned in Holland since March 10th. It is assumed that Captain Fryer was forced to descend on Dutch territory owing to the unfavourable weather on March 10th and the following days referred to by Sir John French.
- Moseley, Lieut. J. G., (son of Dr. C. E. Moseley, Port Antonio, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Murray, 2nd Lieut. Cecil, (son of Mr. H. B. Murray, British Guiana), Queen's Own Glasgow Yeomanry.
- Owen, and Lieut. Meredyth, (son of Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.), The Welsh Regiment.

[Copies of the last ten WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS containing in all 899 names are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, price 1s. each, or post free 1s. 1d.]

## OBITUARY.

### THE HON. A. P. MARRYAT.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of the Hon. A. P. Marryat, which took place at his residence Maracas, Trinidad, on March 9th.

Mr. Marryat was for many years a member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago and a loyal supporter of the West India Committee of which his father, Mr. Charles Marryat, was Chairman in the early seventies of last century. Of Mr. A. P. Marryat, Mr. Edgar Tripp writes : " He was one of the best and truest hearted men who ever landed at Port-of-Spain—a somewhat rough diamond, but one of the purest water. Educated at that splendid training school of future manly men, Rugby, a few subsequent years were spent sheep farming in Australia and then he came here to superintend the family estates of Union and Marbella. Then he married Miss Farfan, the acknowledged belle of the island, who is still, happily, with us, and the young couple lived for some years and dispensed hospitality from their beautiful home "Mon Nid," set in the wooded slope of San Fernando Hill. The calls of the London office resulted in his departure and stay there for a period, after which he returned to do the great service of his life to Trinidad. The colony had for some time been literally groaning beneath the heel of judicial tyranny and corruption. From his seat in Council, which he had quickly resumed, he boldly attacked the Bench in more trenchant, if deserved, language than had been previously heard at the old Horse Shoe table. His pluck and independence carried the timid and the wavering with him. The Judicial Commission followed with results that are historical. He was Chairman of the Committee which undertook the prosecution in the matter, with which I was also associated, and was untiring in his efforts to bring the matter to a successful issue. Again, a year later, in 1893, he was nominated by the Governor as a member of the Railroad and Roads Commission, to which I also belonged and had further opportunity of noting his thoroughness, and blunt common-sense way of getting straight at the root

of things. What that Commission accomplished will be long and gratefully remembered by the taxpayers. Mr. Marryat was a firm believer in cane farming and friend of the cane farmer. He it was who first collected the statistics which have for so many years appeared in the Journal of the Agricultural Society, and have been so often quoted as proving the extent and value of the industry. But whatever he undertook to do of a public nature he did thoroughly and well. Increasing years and deafness caused him to resign his seat in the Legislative Council, and it has always seemed to me a reproach to the Executive that a man who had served his adopted country so loyally and so well should have been allowed to retire without the compliment so often paid to others of retaining for life in the colony the title of Honorable. Not that he cared twopence for it, but his friends did. He was honest as the day in all things, a true friend, and a worthy citizen.

THE HON. J. G. W. HAZELL.

We regret to say that the Hon. J. G. W. Hazell died at his residence, Kingstown, St. Vincent, on March 20th at the age of 67.

Mr. Hazell was for many years senior partner in one of the leading business firms in St. Vincent, namely, Messrs. J. H. Hazell, Sons and Co., and also up to the time of his death a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils. He was a keen and successful business man and planter, and took a great interest in all forms of sport. He was highly respected and popular among all classes of the community. He will be very much missed by all.

MR. EDWARD DOBRIDGE.

We regret to state that a cable has been received from St. Kitts announcing the death of Mr. Edward Dobridge.

Mr. Edward Dobridge, who was a member of a family well known in the Leeward Islands was, perhaps, the doyen of the planting community of St. Kitts. He was manager and attorney for a number of estates, and enjoyed great popularity throughout the island. One of the oldest members of the West India Committee, he took a deep interest in the work of that body.

REVIEWS AND PERIODICALS.

Sir W. H. Mercer, one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, brings to bear on the COLONIAL JOURNAL, of which he is editor, his wide experience of what mental pabulum readers in the Colonies require. The April issue of his magazine which is now before us, traverses a wide field from plague and yellow fever, which it assumes to be endemic in a mild form in Nigeria, to postage stamps. The reading matter is mainly made up of notes, which form, perhaps, more pleasant reading in the tropics, at any rate, than longer articles. From an editorial we learn that the Bank of Mauritius conducted the purchase of sugar from the planters of that island on behalf of the Government. Regarding the prohibition of the export of cocoa issued on the 5th of January and withdrawn on the 3rd of February as regards the unmanufactured article, the JOURNAL says: "The prohibition would have hit hard the merchants who had bought forward, and would have discouraged future cultivation, but no doubt the principal con-

sideration was that the sources of supply are too numerous to make the prohibition an effective weapon against the enemy. It is not the cocoa from this country that will to any great extent enter Germany and Austria. It is gratifying to hear that France is a large purchaser from us, of course using the article in the form of chocolate, and this has largely contributed to the high price. Unfortunately, not much of the profit has gone to the cultivators." The chief feature of THE EMPIRE REVIEW for April is an account, with plans, of the Battle of the Falkland Islands on December 8th, 1914, which went far towards removing any danger of a raid on the West Indian colonies. The mantle of the late Mr. Archibald Colquhoun has fallen—temporarily at any rate—upon the capable shoulders of his widow and Sir H. Wilson, who are at present controlling the destinies of UNITED EMPIRE, the Official Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, the April number of which maintains the high standard set up by the late editor. A new feature of interest in the magazine is the first number of a series of articles on Kindred Societies—Past and Present.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Lately the Cayman Islands have been quite off the beaten track, having been dependent upon schooners and occasional steam "opportunities" for communication with the outside world. Negotiations with the Williams Shipping Agency of New York with a view to the establishment of direct steamship communication between America, Jamaica, and Georgetown, Grand Cayman, were, however, brought to a successful issue last year, and the Company have decided to operate between the above-mentioned ports and the Isle of Pines, returning by the same route to New York. Such a line will be of the greatest possible advantage to the island, as nearly all the merchants obtain their supplies from New York, which will be brought direct from port to port, thus obviating the necessity of transshipment in Jamaica. Mr. Robinson, the Commissioner, in his report on the Blue-book of that Dependency of Jamaica, expresses the hope that tourists in search of peace and quiet will be induced to visit Grand Cayman, which has the merit of being entirely free of dust, and of offering good sea-bathing and wild duck shooting.

The general prosperity of Grand Cayman depends largely on the price obtained from turtle, and contracts which have hitherto been made on a yearly basis are now made for five years with a company which proposes to establish a turtle canning factory. During the year seven vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,128 tons, were built in the islands and launched. Shipbuilding, for which the Caymanians possess a natural aptitude, constitutes an important industry and one deserving of every encouragement. There are at present on the register 38 vessels, with a total tonnage of 2,784 tons. Many vessels built

by the Caymanians and manned in great part by them are serving under the flags of Cuba and the American Republics.

In the lesser islands coco-nuts form the staple industry, but, unfortunately, in spite of the most strenuous measures, the dreaded bud-rot disease, to the seriousness of which the CIRCULAR called attention last year, still continues to make headway, a circumstance that gives rise to grave anxiety for the future.

The following tables show the revenue and ex-



Grand Cayman Island.

penditure and the value of the imports and exports of the dependency for the five years from 1909-10 to 1913-14 :-

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1909-10	2,824	3,282	23,858	11,371
1910-11	2,779	2,716	26,232	10,992
1911-12	3,795	2,700	28,444	12,323
1912-13	3,397	3,105	25,000	10,000
1913-14	5,044	2,836	33,000	8,000

More than half the revenue of the colony is provided by the Post Office, which sold stamps to the value of £2,630 during the year. Customs receipts are, however, expanding, and it is noted that the duty on that delightful toilet preparation "Bay rum" has been increased, owing to the popularity which it enjoys as a beverage.

In his letter of transmittal, His Excellency Sir William Manning compliments Mr. A. C. Robinson on his economical administration of the islands for which better days appear to be in store.

Just now the makers of sugar machinery find it impossible to obtain copper work from the manufacturers on account of the extent to which the latter are employed in making munitions of war. This is having a serious effect upon the production of certain machinery in connection with sugar factories, such as vacuum pans, stills, etc. Brass work is, however, easily obtainable.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

A CONSIDERABLE proportion of the tanning material used in the United Kingdom comes from the Continent. Its place has, however, been taken to a large extent by wattle bark—the wattle is a species of acacia—produced in British colonies, the principal markets being Antwerp and Hamburg, which are practically closed by the war. In this connection it may be pointed out that a valuable tanning asset exists in the West Indies in the form of the mangrove.

CONSIDERABLE attention is being paid in this country to the question of the value of coco-nut cake—the dried and ground "flesh" from which the oil has been extracted—for dairy purposes, and the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture* has recently published some interesting data on this point. Substituted for gluten in the diet of cows, it has been found that substantially the same amount of milk is yielded as with the latter food. Four pounds per day is looked upon as being the outside quantity that should be used.

AN interesting account of the changes which take place in the composition of bananas during ripening is given in the December number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*. Mr. Gore, the writer of the article, concludes, as the result of his observations, that the usual carbo-hydrate changes—the saccharification of starch, with the formation of sucrose and invert sugar and consumption of sugars in respiration—proceed uniformly in all kinds of bananas. There is also a steady transference of water from peel to pulp during ripening.

Messrs. Russell and Budden contribute further to this interesting study, and give the results of the application of various disinfectants to the soil. The volatile antiseptics used were, toluene, carbon bisulphide, benzine, cyclo-hexane, chloroform, ether, hexane and methyl and ethyl alcohols. The non-volatiles used were cresol, phenol, hydroquinone, formaldehyde and pyridin. Of the disinfectants employed, formaldehyde and pyridin were the most effective; cresol, phenol, calcium sulphide, carbon bisulphide, toluene, benzine, and petrol having a medium effect. But, the authors go on to say, "None of these antiseptics is as good as steam, either in increasing the amount of ammonia in the soil, or killing insect or fungoid pests, or in inducing a good fibrous root development."

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. CHARLES FREDERICK WORTERS has been elected a director of C. Czarnikow, Ltd.

THE Canadian Garrison Artillery and other Dominion Regiments are supplying a number of men for garrison duty in one of the West Indian Islands.

BRITISH DYES, LTD., the state-aided company formed to manufacture aniline dyes in the United Kingdom has, after all, gone to allotment on applications for 630,452 shares.

THE HON. E. D. LABORDE, I.S.O., Treasurer and Controller of Customs of St. Lucia, has been appointed to act as Honorary Trade Correspondent for the island of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

MR. GEORGE FARMER, who was some years in British Guiana and Barbados, has been transferred from Sierra Leone to British East Africa, where as a first-class officer he now holds the position of Tropical Agricultural Instructor.

THE new American Banking Law affords facilities to American Banks for establishing branches outside the United States, and the National City Bank and others will, it is stated, shortly be opening business in South America and the West Indies.

MISS LOUISE PATTERSON, daughter of the Hon. Dr. G. W. Patterson, of Grenada, has successfully passed the matriculation examination of London University. She proposes to follow in her father's steps and to take up the medical course at the London Hospital.

MR. J. DARRELL WALL left England on April 9th accompanied by Mrs. Wall for Tonga in the Western Pacific to take up his position as Auditor-General of that dependency. Mr. Wall began his official career in 1891 in connection with the Holberton Institute in Antigua. He was shorthand reporter to the West Indian Royal Commission in 1897, and since 1900 he has been Chief Clerk to the Auditor General of the Leeward Islands.

MUCH success is meeting the treatment of sufferers from ankylostomiasis with thymol in Trinidad. According to Dr. Dodd a few doses produce such an improvement of health and such a feeling of well-being that the patients do not think it worth while continuing the cure. Another difficulty was met with at La Brea, the unwillingness of patients to submit to purging on the ground that owing to the scarcity of work due to the war they could not obtain sufficient food.

IN view of the decline in sugar production in Poland as the result of the war operations and the increasing demand for refined sugar, a meeting of the Syndicate of Refiners has recently been held in Kieff. At this, according to the *International Sugar Journal*, it was decided to raise the production of refined sugar from 1,000,000 to 1,048,387 pounds, and to increase the quantity of sugar to be placed on the inland market by 5 per cent. Our contemporary also states that the increase in beet sowings in Russia this year amounts to 3 per cent.

OWING to difficulties with chauffeurs and the unevenness of the road surface, the cost of running the motor car mail and passenger service in St. Vincent has been larger than was anticipated during the first seven months, the receipts being £154 9s. 9d. and the expenditure £350 14s. 11d., but this included £75 depreciation for the whole year. It is expected that the total loss for the year will not exceed £226 which is only £26 more than that paid for the former inconvenient and infrequent service between Kingstown and Georgetown.

MR. D. S. Corlett, the manager of the Peradeniya Experiment Station in Ceylon, gives the following particulars of a precocious seven-year-old coco-nut palm in the young plantation there.

	Feet.
Height to the cabbage	9½
Girth at 2 feet from ground	4
Number of unopened flower stalks	2
Number of opened flower stalks	5
Number of bunches bearing nuts	13
Total number of nuts	179
Total number of nuts on the largest bunch	33

Will some reader tell us of a palm in the West Indies which can beat this record?

ADVERTING to Dr. Goulston's recent letter in the *Standard*, and to the correspondence which has been passing in that paper as to the respective merits of cane and beet, Esculapius, in a letter published in the *Western Morning News*, writes:—

"Up to the middle of the nineteenth century all the world used sugar-cane sugar. Beet sugar was introduced into this country about this time, and since then the mortality from diseases of the heart has increased in a most alarming manner. Dr. Newsholme, C.B., medical officer to the Local Government Board, in his report for the year 1911-12 drew attention to the alarming increase in the mortality from diseases of the heart during the age period 45 to 55 years. A still more alarming increase in the death-rates from diseases of the heart has occurred in Germany, a beet-sugar consuming country, to which Dr. Karl Grassmann called attention in the *Munch. Med. Wochenschr.* November 11th, 1913, which is quoted by the *British Medical Journal* in an article on the subject in its issue of February 7th, 1914. Now it is a fact that this alarming increase in the deaths from diseases of the heart is coincident with the introduction of beet sugar into England, and my own belief is that this is a question of cause and effect, that if we could reduce the consumption of beet sugar and increase the consumption of sugar-cane sugar we should, to a very great extent, reduce the number of deaths from diseases of the heart."

### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE King's decision to prohibit the use of alcoholic liquors in all the Royal Palaces has invested the drink question with a new interest. At first the chief concern was that men engaged in producing war munitions should become abstainers. To encourage them by force of example, and to avoid invidious distinctions between rich and poor, the movement is now extending to all classes.

\* \* \*

WE are still awaiting the Government's proposals. Partial or wholesale prohibition are much discussed alternatives. The problem is not easy of solution. In normal times the universal closure of public houses would entail an amount of unemployment and would appal every citizen save the temperance extremist. Such a consequence loses much of its weight at the present moment when the labour of both sexes is being earnestly sought in many avenues of national service.

\* \* \*

MEANWHILE most people are addressing to themselves the question "What shall we drink?" The papers are busily suggesting ways out of the difficulty. Many substitutes are proposed. In this direction as in many others the war is pressing home the value of cane sugar. A medical correspondent of the *Times* advocates warmly as "a pick-me-up" a mixture of milk and cane sugar.

\* \* \*

THE manufacture of munitions of war is to be pushed forward with unexampled vigour. It has taken the country some time to wake up to the urgency of this question. Even the Government have only recently emphasised the seriousness of the demand. A Committee representative of all the great interests concerned is to organise the production of munitions. It is gratifying to note that both employers and employed are becoming more zealous. Very soon every available man and woman who can be spared from other callings will be making shells. "Shells and more shells" is the cry of the moment.

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IT is notable that of the 33,000 women who have registered in response to the Government's appeal more have sought to be employed on armaments than in any other capacity. It is very easy to see that the story of German barbarities has had its influence in this direction. Suffragists have been placated by the news that as regards Government contracts women are to receive equal wages with men. There is no intention that the entrance of women into the field shall be attended by lower wages.

\* \* \*

MR. HARCOURT announced at the opening of Parliament that the Dominions will be consulted when we reach the stage of settling the terms of peace.

The fairness of this decision will not be questioned. The Dominions have made the greatest effort in their history to place their resources in men and wealth at the disposal of the Empire. It is to be hoped that the case of the tropical colonies will not be overlooked. With much smaller means they have given with equal promptness and generosity. At a time when our views of many aspects of national and Imperial relations are being readjusted, the moment is overdue when the Crown Colonies shall be recognised in our Councils.

\* \* \*

A TOUR among the shopping centres of London reveals little cause of misgiving. German submarines may make daily attacks upon our shipping but the effect upon our supplies of goods has yet to be felt. Never were the stores more richly furnished with commodities of all kinds. "The piping times of peace" never witnessed more powerful appeals to the purses of all classes. Silversmiths in particular have been quick to seize opportunity, and beautiful models are to be seen of soldiers, mounted and on foot, not only of this country, but of her allies, richly carved and chased.

\* \* \*

HEADED by the King and Queen, possessors of curios are depleting their stores in order to enhance the funds of the Red Cross Society. Every day a large and fashionable crowd gathers at the sale rooms in order to purchase some treasure readily sacrificed in the interests of philanthropy. Many of these curios are centuries old, their value derived from historical association, and in the ordinary course would have descended as heir-looms. Their sale represents but another medium by which Society is ever seeking to do something for England.

\* \* \*

LORD DERRY, whose name is so well known to our readers as President of the British Cotton Growing Association, has proved the most successful recruiting sergeant among our peers. Recently St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, was crowded on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter, Lady Victoria Stanley, to Lord Rosbery's younger son, the Hon. Neil Primrose, M.P. Mr. Primrose, as Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is seeking to win his spurs in the Department over which his father presided with great success many years ago.

\* \* \*

OUR readers in Jamaica will learn with regret of the death at the comparatively early age of 43 of Lieutenant-Colonel William Sandilands Harrison, R.A.M.C. Colonel Harrison, who had carried out research work in connection with tropical diseases both in India and Jamaica, himself fell a victim when in the island and was invalided home. He served with the Tirah Expeditionary Force on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-8, receiving the medal with two clasps.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The round voyage of R.M.S.P. *Trent*, which was commandeered and should have sailed on March 10, having been cancelled, no homeward mail has arrived since April 7th. The next one is not due until May 2nd. It was not possible to publish in last CIRCULAR extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. *Victorian* as the mails were not delivered in London until Wednesday, April 7th. For the purpose of record, however, a summary is given below.

Mr. A. P. Cowley reported on March 18th that though the weather in *Antigua* was very dry and showers were wanted, the young crops were coming on very well. The Onion Growers' Association in which Mr. Jackson, the Curator of the Botanic station took a deep interest, was busy, and reports from New York on their shipments were very favourable. Some tomatoes and pumpkins had also been shipped to the American capital. The sugar crop was in full swing. Gunthorpe's was taking canes from many fresh estates. Mr. Rudder of George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., was in the island studying the fuel question, and it was said that he had already effected fuel economies in St. Kitts. Mr. Rudder's visit was accompanied by a revival of the Central Factory question, and it was hoped that the Government would guarantee interest on the capital for a second Central Factory. Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G., wrote from *Barbados* on March 20th that reaping was general and that steam engine estates were getting on well, although wind-mills were waiting for the N.E. trade wind, which had not yet set in. The canes were by no means ripe and were lacking in sugar. The legislature had imposed an export duty on sugar and molasses, an additional excise on rum, and an additional import duty on wines, spirits, and tobacco, which it was hoped would only be temporary. Mr. J. C. McCowan (March 20th) reported that the weather in *British Guiana* during the fortnight had been much too dry, and rains were wanted, especially on those estates that were making a short grinding and required good showers for tops recently planted. The Council of the Chamber of Commerce had written to the Government suggesting that the matter of the Dutch Standard should be the subject of representation at Ottawa, pointing out the injustice that might be done to the sugar industry if the present Colour Standard was not corrected. Mr. W. H. Kirby, Chief Officer of the R.M.S. *Berbice*, had been appointed Harbour Master of Georgetown in the place of Captain J. B. Thelwall, retired. The *Alert* fire-boat, built by Messrs. Merryweather, had been handed over to the Fire Brigade Committee by the two Insurance companies.

Chief Justice Parker had arrived in *Montserrat* when Mr. K. P. Penchoen wrote on the 19th of March, and had been presented with a pair of white gloves. No rain had fallen during the month to date and the weather was oppressively hot. Difficulty was being experienced in obtaining opportunities for shipping produce. News of the death of Lieut. Gordon, son of a Commissioner of *Montserrat*, had been received with deep regret. From Nevis Mr. E. Williams wrote on March 17th that planters were rather gloomy, for though they had been relieved by a heavy downpour the cane crop was exceedingly small. The elementary Denominational Schools were to pass under the Government on April 1st and the Inspector of Schools for the Colony was in the island. Hon. George S. Hudson reported from *St. Lucia* on March 19th that March had been a very dry month, only about half an inch of rain having

fallen to date. Sugar grinding was in full swing, but the crop would not be large. Cacao pickings were very moderate, and would practically stop in May. The lime crop was also nearly quiescent. The Government Lime Factory had been very fully employed during the past crop, and it was thought that it would be found too small to meet the coming crop's demands. Some five or six years ago the higher parts of the principal forest valleys in *St. Lucia* were opened up by bridle roads at the expense of a few thousand pounds, and one could now begin to see in flourishing cacao plantations along these roads, principally planted and owned by peasants, what an excellent investment for the colony this had proved. He believed they were only seeing now the initial results of this policy; and that they might be expected to widen gradually, exerting a considerable influence on *St. Lucia's* exports, and doing far more good than the settlement of peasants on poor coast lands where sweet potatoes and manioc were the principal crops.

Writing from *St. Vincent* on March 20th Mr. W. N. Sands reported the death of the Hon. J. G. W. Hazell, who would be very much missed by all classes of the community. In his Address to the Legislature the Administrator, the Hon. C. Gideon Murray, said that it was a gratifying fact that a number of *St. Vincent* men were serving with the forces. The deficit on the year was estimated at £5,805, but included the sum of £2,000 given to the mother country. The estimated revenue for 1915-16 was £32,560, and the estimated expenditure £33,452, which showed an estimated deficit of £892. To meet this deficit, which was a small one considering the circumstances, it was proposed to increase the import duties from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. on imported articles which were not common household necessaries of life, including biscuits, flour, butter, tea, sugar, fish, rice and cheese, which was estimated to produce £1,440. In order that road improvement schemes might not suffer and, further, that the labouring classes might find occasional employment when not engaged by estates, it was proposed to float a loan of £2,000 at 5 per cent for special road services. The local staple crops, arrowroot and cotton, were, he said, adversely affected by the war, and he outlined the Government's scheme for inducing planters to partially substitute Indian corn (maize) for these. During the past fortnight a very large Carib petroglyph or "marked stone" of much interest had been unearthed at Colouarie Estate. It was understood that there are numerous markings on it. Vegetation was parched, and rain was needed in *Tobago* when Mr. Robert S. Reid wrote on March 18th. Cacao pickings were giving a satisfactory return. The death of Mr. C. H. E. Farman, solicitor, as the result of a carriage accident, had caused much regret. He was a keen lawyer and was much respected. The Rev. F. H. Hammond had returned from his holiday in England.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing from Port-of-Spain, *Trinidad* on March 22nd, referred in feeling terms to the death of Mr. A. P. Marryat, to which reference is made elsewhere in this CIRCULAR. There was a "scene" in the Council Chamber on March 17th. The Attorney-General on behalf of the Government had introduced a Public Health Ordinance to consolidate all sanitary and other health ordinances. When Mr. Gollan had expounded its provisions with his usual eloquence, and other speakers had taken part in the debate, Dr. Clare, the Surgeon-General condemned it lock, stock, and barrel, saying in the course of his remarks that "until the Government recognised the dictum of Lord Beaconsfield that the first, second and third consideration of the State should be the health of the people—until that dictum was recognised and acted upon, there would always be found money for other purposes, even for the creation of new de-



partments, and never any for public health improvement." The Attorney-General thereupon accused Dr. Clare of making a deliberate misstatement. The Surgeon General protested, and eventually the Governor intervened and peace was restored. The Government had announced the issue of £100,000 in 4 per cent. debentures repayable by annual drawings spread over twenty years, commencing June 15th, 1925. The estate of the late Mr. Leon Centeno had been proved at £175,000.

The *Nassau Guardian* states that a handsome jardiniere has been sent to Grenada for presentation to Sir George B. Haddon-Smith, late Governor of the Bahamas, by the citizens of Nassau "in appreciation of his successful administration of the Government of the Colony 1912-14." The presentation was to be made by the Hon. Commissioner, G.M.G., K.C., senior member of the Executive Council at a semi-public function. The announcement that the Military Cross had been awarded to Captain Boddam Whetham, R.F.A., formerly A.D.C. to Sir William Grey Wilson when Governor of the Bahamas had caused much pleasure to his many friends. The height of the season found Nassau enjoying the perfect weather for which it is famous, and the exodus for more northerly resorts which March sometimes brings, seems to be far away. Racing, tennis, golf, polo, fishing, swimming, and sailing were all in full swing, with Mrs. W. E. Carlin's annual Court Golf Championship occupying immediate attention.

#### BIRTH.

Gladwin.—On April 3rd, at Holme Lacy, Portslade, the wife of E. Powis Gladwin, of a son.

#### DEATHS.

Hazell.—At his residence in Kingstown, St. Vincent, on March 20th, the Hon. J. G. W. Hazell, member of the Executive and Legislative Council of the Colony. Aged 67.

Marryat.—On March 9th, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, the Hon. A. P. Marryat, for many years member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

Messrs. E. F. Darrell and Co., Export and Import Merchants in New York, write of the West India Committee Map of the West Indies: "For commercial purposes, we do not believe it can be improved upon. It is clear, not obscured by too much detail, and the information conveyed is both interesting and instructive."

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 6s. 1d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

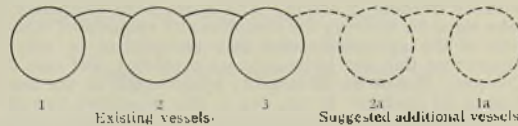
### LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

*The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.*

#### The Capacity of Triple Effets.

A correspondent signing himself "Student" writes, under date 2nd April:—

"To add to the capacity of a triple effet it has been suggested that the addition of two vessels, as per sketch,



would suit the case on the supposition that the heating surface of the existing No. 3 vessel getting extra vapour from the new vessels will treat the extra juice it gets from them. Assuming that the condenser and air-pumps are amply big for the double duty, can any of your readers say from their experience that the suggestion should be adopted, and, if not, why not?"

### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

#### The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd.

The Directors in their report for the year ended December 31st, state the net profit after deduction of losses arising from the realisation of the 1913 balata amounts to £11,978 1s. 5d. Adding the sum of £71 12s. 4d. from last year's accounts and deducting £427 17s. 11d., reserved for Income Tax, there remains £11,621 15s. 10d. The Directors have decided to write off from "Preliminary Expenses" the sum of £2,974 17s. 9d., reducing that item to £15,000, and as soon as sufficient funds are in hand from the completion of forward sale-contracts they propose to pay to the Preference Shareholders the half-year's accumulated dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, due September, 1912. The operations of the year 1914 resulted in the production of the record crop of 1,076,067 lbs. net of balata, but the Company felt the full effect of the outbreak of war, and for some months thereafter was faced with a position which caused great anxiety. One of the principal markets for balata, namely Germany, was closed, and the product had been declared contraband of war, preventing its exportation to neutral markets. The financial position of the Company, too, owing to the non-sale of its product, had become deplorably strained, so that by November of the year under review, bills, loans, and overdrafts against the Company amounted to upwards of £60,000, while only an infinitesimal quantity of balata had been sold.

The Board therefore appealed for assistance to the Colonial Office, and subsequently to the Governor of the Colony, with the result that the local government entered into an engagement to guarantee to the Company's bankers in British Guiana the repayment of the then existing overdraft and such further advances (not exceeding \$75,000) as might be required for carrying on the business for the ensuing six months, the total stock of balata then unshipped being hypothecated as security.

The Board record their grateful appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by the Governor and the Court of British Guiana at this critical stage. The Board were able before the end of the year to take advantage of improved market conditions to dispose of considerable quantities of balata, while further extensive sales, representing approximately all the remaining stock of 1914, have been

effected during the current year. The whole of the £60,000 above referred to has consequently been liquidated, including the local indebtedness guaranteed by the Government. Moreover, on the maturity of current contracts, the Company will have cash resources amounting to upwards of £50,000 available for its business and the payment of the contemplated dividend.

The agreement between this Company and certain other producing companies and individuals, to which reference was made in the Report of the Shareholders' Committee, dated 27th August, 1914, was provisionally abrogated in September of that year, but the conditions attaching to its abrogation continued to operate in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Company and seriously interfered with its freedom of action. The Board were compelled to take steps for assuring the complete and unqualified revocation of the agreement, and they are glad to be able to report that this was ultimately accomplished, and that the Company is now in all respects a free agent in the handling of its product. It was due to this important step that the Company was able immediately to avail itself of the improved demand for balata and to establish its present strong financial position.

The working of the balata grants in British Guiana is now organised on a more practical and economical basis under the supervision of the Manager (Mr. A. F. White), than has hitherto been possible. The rubber plantations are being properly maintained and rubber of good quality is produced therefrom. Mr. Hugh A. Franklin, who has joined the Board since last meeting, now retires and offers himself for re-election in accordance with the Articles of Association. Mr. Libert Oury also retires by rotation and offers himself for re-election to the Board.

The Report and Accounts were adopted at the Annual General Meeting on April 16th, when a vote of thanks was passed to the Governor and Combined Court of British Guiana for the timely assistance which they had rendered to the Company.

#### The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half year ended December, 1914, show a net profit of £29,452 14s. 7d. (as compared with £29,870 os. 10d. for the same period in 1913) making with £35,682 5s. 3d. (£29,050 18s. 3d.) the balance of profit from the preceding half year £65,134 19s. 10d. (£58,926 19s. 1d.). After setting aside £11,000 (£10,000) as further provision for depreciation of investments the directors recommended the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. (3 per cent.) for the half-year which will absorb £18,000, leaving £36,134 19s. 10d. (£30,926 19s. 1d.) to be carried forward. In their report the directors state that it will be noticed from the figures of the Accounts that the volume of the Bank's business has been somewhat affected by the war, which was to be expected. The fact that they have been enabled to employ the Bank's funds at better rates of interest has enabled the Bank's profit to be maintained, notwithstanding the shrinkage in the volume of business. If the market prices for both sugar and cocoa which are at present very good, are maintained they will tend to offset to a considerable extent the depression which exists as a result of the war. Owing to the fall in the price of securities the directors have considered it advisable to transfer £25,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Special Reserve Fund for depreciation of Investments. After this provision has been made the value of the Investments held by the Bank is in excess of the minimum prices which came into force on 19th March, 1915. (At the corresponding period last year £25,000 was replaced to the Reserve Fund from the Special Reserve). Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. Edward Alfred Goulding, M.P., offered themselves for the vacant seats on the Board.

Presiding at the half-yearly meeting on April 14th, the Chairman, Mr. Charles R. Gurney Hoare, said that the increase in their circulation, if not large, was satisfactory. Their deposits showed a somewhat heavy fall, partly due to restrictions of West Indian credits, both in this country

and the United States, and also to reductions in Government funds, caused by the fall in revenue and the issue of local Government loans, which had attracted their depositors. Bills payable were less, owing to the decrease in imports, which was the result of high prices, high freights, and general disorganisation in business. Specie was £64,000 more, owing to the prohibition in the Colonies of the export of coin, resulting in the accumulation in certain branches of more specie than was required for ordinary bank purposes. The investments were £70,000 more, owing to their having taken £100,000 of the War Loan. The bills receivable were £119,000 less. The Government purchase of a large part of the Demerara crop for cash accounted for a considerable reduction in bills. Owing to the fall in the price of securities, the directors had transferred £25,000 of the general reserve to the reserve against investments. With regard to the general state of the business, though they had suffered some inconvenience from the irregularity of mails and high rates and the shortness of their staff, owing to some of them serving their country, the business of the bank was going on satisfactorily, and though their figures were somewhat smaller, thanks to higher rates for money, their profits were about the same as at this period last year. The board had made an application to the Canadian Government to promote a bank in Canada. Every year the volume of business of the West Indies with Canada tended to increase more and more, and they had for some years wished to establish a branch there. In making application to the Government they were met in so favourable a manner that the directors thought it desirable to take action at once, and though they were unable to act without authority from the British Government, they felt their hands would be strengthened in their application for such authority if they showed how readily the proposal to open a bank had been received in Canada. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

This was seconded by Mr. A. J. McConnell and carried unanimously, and a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year was declared. Mr. Robert Rutherford and Mr. Edward Goulding were elected to the Board, and the auditors having been re-elected, the proceeding terminated.

#### The Demerara Railway Co.

The accounts for the half-year ended December 31st last show a gross revenue of £28,192 7s. 4d. (as compared with £28,433 10s. 3d. for the same period of 1913), and gross expenditure £20,610 16s. 6d. (£19,501), leaving £7,581 10s. 10d. (8,931 6s. 9d.) less Debenture interest £1,400, leaving net revenue £6,035 9s. 11d. (£7,531 6s. 9d.), after adding the Government subsidy £6,250, the amount withdrawn for renewal fund £1,073 13s. 1d. (£1,240 7s. 3d.), and the amount carried forward for the preceding half-year £1,682 12s. 11d. (£353 1s.), there remains a balance of £15,041 15s. (15,374 15s.). Out of this there falls to be paid the dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on Four per cent. Extension Preference stock £6,250, and the directors recommend that the remainder should be dealt with as follows: (a) Dividend for half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on Seven per cent. Preference Stock, £1,025; (b) dividend for half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. on Preferred ordinary stock, £563; (c) appropriation to renewal fund, £3,000, leaving to carry forward £1,203 5s. 1d. (£1,536). The traffic during the six months under notice was as follows:—

	Passengers.		Goods.	
	1914	1913	1914	1913
Demerara Railway	178,256	215,212	34,162	36,129
Berbice Railway	22,133	30,118	5,959	5,482
West Coast Railway	112,644	92,722	2,393	1,777
	318,033	338,052	42,514	43,388

The Parika extension has been completed; but the profit which it would otherwise have shown became a loss owing to a new boiler having to be charged to the West Coast Railway during the half-year. The Directors regret the

death of their colleague, Mr. J. Wildridge, and do not propose to fill the vacancy. Mr. H. Martin Sells and Hon. C. F. Wieting of the Demerara Committee retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election. No dividend on the Ordinary shares is recommended, it being felt desirable to conserve the company's resources.

**The Royal Bank of Canada.**

The Directors have declared a dividend of 3 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for the three months to March 31st, payable on and after June 1st.

Latest Quotations.		PRIORS
Price		Apr. 19
Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	83
British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	94
British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	97
Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
6 % The Colonial Bank		
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		83
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		50 1/2
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		98
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		90 1/2
Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures		100
6 % Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		15 1/2
6 % New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		103 1/2
7 % Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		
Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/2 shares)		
United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (1/2 paid)		
Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		32 1/2
Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.		105
Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.		77
Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		89 1/2
Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		90
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		1
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Cum. 1st Pref		8 1/2
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd"		
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		99 1/2

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 9th, "Few showers have fallen, but more rain is much wanted." 19th, "Heavy rains generally throughout the island." Demerara (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), April 16th, "Fine rain generally." April 19th, "Showery." Berbice (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), April 17th, "Weather is favourable for the growing crops." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended March 24th, Port Antonio 18th to 23rd "Fine"; 24th, "Cloudy"; Kingston, 18th to 22nd, "Fine"; 23rd "Rain"; 24th, "Overcast." Week ended March 31st, Port Antonio, 25th to 26th, "Fair"; 27th, "Rain"; 28th, "Fair"; 29th to 30th, "Rain"; 31st, "Fine." Kingston, 25th to 31st, "Fine."

A list of publications may be obtained, post free, from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                         |                           |                                |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. W. Abbott           | Mr. F. E. Everington      | Mr. A. S. Kernahan             |
| Mr. A. K. Agar          | Mr. W. M. Fleicher        | Mr. G. Raiton                  |
| Mr. A. F. Anderson      | Mr. G. Graf               | Mr. W. P. Sainuels             |
| Mr. A. E. Bratt         | Mr. John T. Grew          | Very Rev. Dean E. Slopan, M.A. |
| Mr. Geoffrey Brooke     | Mr. E. A. H. Haggart      | Mr. W. Smith                   |
| Lt.-Col. W. R. Davidson | Hrs. Honour Leslie Jarvis | and                            |
| Houston, C.M.G.         | Mr. L. J. Lipscombe       | Mr. J. D. Wall                 |
| Mr. F. J. Evans         |                           |                                |
- Mr. G. Carew, "Greylands," Ashburton, Devon.  
 Mr. E. P. Gladwin, "Homelacy," St. Andrews Road, Portslade, Sussex.  
 Sir Frederic M. Maxwell, 39, Kensington Gardens Square, W.  
 Major O. H. E. Marescaux, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.

Mr. Austin H. Kirby, The Warren, Calabar, S.P., Nigeria.

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per P.S.N. Panama, April 22nd:—

- |                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. F. A. Neal  | Miss E. Anderson | Miss G. Maingor |
| Mr. S. N. Rodes |                  |                 |

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Feb. 20, 1915	1914	
Sugar	17,126	16,957 Tons.	215	689 Tons.
Molasses		617 Puns.		
Rum	1,168,354	710 Tons.	115,065	93,462 Galls.
Molascuit, A.	252	710 Tons.		
Cacao	21,037	22,557 lbs.	210,252	1,346,576 Lbs.
Coffee	37,390	37,134	1,746,320	2,665,272
Coco-nuts	208,770	502,657 No.	3,705,320	3,579,650 No.
Oranges			643,550	871,650
Hananas			530,564	1,312,608
Cotton			5,031	— Lbs.
Pimento			12,716	19,773 Cwts.
Ginger			537	2,073
Honey			1,992	14,282 Galls.
Dyewoods			6,162	7,343 Tons.
Gold	11,326	10,347 ozs.		
Diamonds		1,679 Carats.		
Rice	5,089,263	4,933,845 lbs.		
Balata	262,044	190,295		
Rubber	825			
Timber	37,070	38,883 cubic ft.		
Lumber	6,902	76,459 ft.		
Lime (citrate of)	1,958			
Trinidad.		Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Mar. 22, 1915	1914	
Sugar	5,158	5,120 Tons.	1,362	2,191 Tons.
Molasses	349	535 Puns.	893	6,498 Puns.
Rum	580	272		
Coco-nuts	1,743,915	3,574,185 No.		
Asphalt	7,888	8,943 Tons.		
Manjak	53	62		
Bitters	3,101	4,742 Cases.		
Coffee	9,920	4,160 lbs.		
Crude Petrol	67,590	2,674,910 Galls.		
Cacao	21,796,800	26,898,400 lbs.	8,198,460	8,398,980 lbs.
Cotton			35	177 Bales.
Seed				890 Bags.
Copra	4,352	1,862 Bags.	96	101
Spice			627,190	504,645 lbs.
Kola			2,950	2,220
Dominica.		Grenada.		
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914.	1913.	Oct. 1 to Mar. 20, 1914/15	1913/14	
Cacao	993,888		1,070,720 lbs.	
Limes	45,744		44,820 barrels.	
Lime Juice, raw	379,875		336,728 galls.	
concentrated	148,175		158,974	
Citrate of	5,191		4,753 cwis.	
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984		5,370 galls.	
equelled	1,619		1,505	
Hardwood	82,134		77,903 feet.	
Bananas	3,780		4,266 stems	
Coconuts	554,549		448,747 No.	

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE** stands at 5 per cent. from the 8th August last. War Loan is quoted at 9/16 discount. Consols 66½.

**SUGAR**—It is now looked upon as certain that the Sugar Commission, and with it the prohibition essential to the profitable intramission of the Big British Sugar Trust, will continue for some time; to all appearance as long as the war lasts. Further advance purchases of Java sugar in the shape of 300,000 tons of the new crop have been made on its behalf, with 100,000 tons Cuban sugar for England and France, and with this and the Cuban sugar previously purchased to arrive, together with other purchases the Commission has made and with sugar imported privately by license, should carry this country on until at least October.

During March 53,071 tons of direct consumption sugar came into the United Kingdom, of which 12,000 tons were from Holland, 4,480 tons from Java, and 36,000 tons from Mauritius. The arrivals of raw sugar amounted to 72,870 tons, including 17,660 tons from Java, 11,400 tons from Cuba, 5,890 from Peru, 25,440 tons from Mauritius, and 11,000 tons was from the British West Indies. Altogether, 456,400 tons have been imported since the beginning of the year.

A recrudescence of the unfavourable crop weather in Cuba has led to a further reduction in the estimate, and a deficiency of 350,000 tons is now anticipated. Now, perhaps more than at the commencement of the war, in the face of the prospective Cuban shortage, the question of future supplies comes into special prominence. While the actual sugar crops of the world in 1914-15 are only about 1,000,000 tons less than those for the preceding year, due almost entirely to the beet crops on the Continent, the shortage so far as the world outside the enemy countries is concerned, would amount to something like 2,500,000 tons, due to the locking up of sugar in Germany and Austria, provided there were no leakage of sugar from those countries, and to the actual loss in France and Belgium. It may be presumed, however, that some exports have taken place, and it may be taken that the outside world has been deprived of at least 2,000,000 tons. Even if the war comes to an end before next beet crop there will still be a shortage from reduced sowings of probably 1,500,000 tons. It cannot, however, be too strongly borne in mind that in times of emergency, sugar comes from sources not brought into calculation in times of normal prices. It has already been pointed out that India invariably liberates a large amount of its usual imports for the world's use when the price goes above a certain figure. The recognition of this, coupled with the fact that the British Government is pursuing a rational sugar policy as regards purchases and is well provided as to the present and future, has placed the sugar market on a more settled basis of not excessive prices.

As regards the United Kingdom it may be remarked that were there no prohibition, 96° grey crystals could be landed here duty paid, for £20 per ton. It is a far cry from this figure to £31 the present price of Tate's cubes. Considerable buying of Government sugar has been made by the Trade in anticipation of an increase in the sugar duty in the forthcoming Budget.

In the London market the demand for West Indian crystallized has been steady. On the 9th, 1,200 bags of St. Lucia sold at 26s., and 687 bags of Demerara at 26s. 6d. to 27s. On the 16th 100 tons of crystallized was sold at somewhat dearer rates, 23 bags of Surinam selling at 27s. 6d.

West Indian Sugar Statistics are as under so far as the United Kingdom is concerned to April 10th.

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	10,094	8,193	9,180	6,479	8,318
Deliveries ...	10,450	7,585	6,809	8,026	9,119
Stock	5,653	13,208	4,210	2,942	3,557

In the New York market prices have strengthened considerably as the result of the British Government buying, to which allusion has been already made. In the early part of the fortnight the price of 96° duty paid landed sugar

sank from \$4.77 to \$4.64, recovered to \$4.67 and remained at this figure until the buying referred to brought the price up to \$4.89 on the 15th, at which price it still remains.

**RUM**—The cloud of prohibition still hangs over the spirit market, and the stoppage of the rum ration to our troops in the trenches is looked upon as indicating action in this direction before long.

Since our last issue 66 puns. have been taken into stock and 332 puns. delivered. Sales of clean ordinary qualities having been effected at 3s. 1d. per gallon, 960 puns. Demeraras have been stocked and 391 delivered, prices remaining unaltered at 2s. 2d. per proof gallon.

The stocks in London on the 13th inst. were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	4,955	5,429	5,265	7,439	8,194
Demerara	7,310	10,466	8,739	8,586	7,159
Total, all kinds	12,265	15,895	14,004	16,025	15,353

**CACAO**—During the early part of the fortnight the market was strong, and prices advanced up to the 10th. Subsequently the market quieted down considerably, and at auction sales on the 13th there was little demand. The Trinidad lot was practically entirely bought in, and some bags of Grenada were sold at 9s. to 9s. 1d., a reduction of 1s. to 1s. 6d. A few bags of Jamaica sold at 9s.

The Board of Trade returns show that 18,311,416 lbs. of cacao were imported into the United Kingdom during March, as against 10,055,371 lbs. in March, 1914, and 10,419,716 lbs. in March, 1913. The quantity exported for the same month in 1915 was 5,374,365 lbs. as against 1,525,412 lbs., and 1,510,067 lbs. for March 1914 and 1913 respectively. These figures indicate not only is the striking increase in exports continuing, but that the consumption of cacao in various forms is also increasing by leaps and bounds. Although the prohibition on the export of manufactured cocoa still exists no less than 3,628 cwt. were exported during March by permit on satisfactory proof being given of destination. This is four times the amount exported for March last year. Trinidad varieties may be quoted at from 9s. to 10s., and Grenada from 9s. to 9s.

The Stocks in London on the 10th inst were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	7,407	6,570	5,486	7,278	5,662
Grenada	3,778	14,910	10,536	15,990	18,769
Total, all kinds	11,185	21,480	16,022	23,268	24,431

**COTTON**—About 100 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been sold during the fortnight, chiefly St. Kitts, at 16d. to 17d., with one exceptional bag at 19d. The demand is very limited, and spinners are only purchasing for immediate requirements.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Raw Lime Juice has been scarce, good to fine Jamaica selling at 3s. to 3s. 3d. per gallon. Concentrated is rather firmer, but there is no quotable change and no business to report. Lime Oil (distilled).—None offering. Last business was done at 3s. 3d. per lb. Handpressed is quiet, there being no sales to report.

**NUTMEGS**—Market steady and unchanged. 100's/80's may be quoted at 4½d. to 5½d., 120's/100's at 4½d. to 4¾d.; and 140's/120's at 4½d. to 4¾d.

**MACE**—Prices have improved. Good to fine may be quoted at 2s. 4d. to 2s. 11d., red to good at 1s. 9d. to 2s. 3d., and broken at 11d. to 1s. 8d.

**ARROWROOT**—The demand has improved and about 1,000 barrels have changed hands at 2½d. to 4½d. The latter price was for a few barrels only. The present quotation may be taken as being from 2d. to 4½d.

**COPRA** Fair merchantable West Indian is valued at £26 10s., with a quiet market.

**RUBBER**—Market remains much the same as at last report, with slight increments in some details. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2s. 4d.; smoked sheet, 2s. 4½d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 6½d.; Castilloa sheet at 1s. 11d., and Castilloa scrap at 1s. 6d.

**BALATA**—Market easier. Block, 1s. 11d. c.i.f., or 2s. 0½d. landed; sheet at 2s. 3d. c.i.f., or 2s. 3d. landed.

**PETROLEUM**—Market slightly stronger. American, 8½d.; Water White, 9½d.

April 19th.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

15, SERTING LANE, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

May 3rd, 1915.

### THE MERITS OF TRINIDAD CACAO.

TRINIDAD cacao enjoys a well-deserved reputation for excellence, but it is not improbable that some little misapprehension may have been felt regarding the Commission appointed in Trinidad last year to enquire into various matters affecting it. It would seem that an impression had been gaining ground in the island that the value of Trinidad cacao was depreciating in foreign markets, and a Commission was accordingly appointed by the Government to investigate the cause of the alleged depreciation. The report now before us makes it perfectly clear that a "mare's nest" was discovered, and we must say that we are rather surprised that a Government enquiry should have been set in motion to consider a state of affairs, the existence of which there was little or no evidence. The question as to whether there was any depreciation in value or not was a matter which, one would imagine, could have been easily settled by a scrutiny of the market prices over a series of years, and, if we may be permitted to add it, the exercise of a little common sense. There is, we venture to think, a good deal to be said for those who depre-

cated the appointment of a Commission lest it might tend to create a false impression, and lead to the belief that something might be radically wrong with the Trinidad cacao industry, if only on the ground that there can be no smoke without fire. The Commission has, however, sat and reported, and it cannot be too widely known that the results of its investigations have been to show that Trinidad cacao is as good as ever it was, and that its value has certainly not depreciated, but has only fluctuated with that of other cacao in response to the inevitable laws of supply and demand. Trinidad cacao has generally commanded a premium over other varieties—Guayaquil alone excepted—and if the premium is not so high now as it was some years ago the cause must be sought not in any falling off in the quality of Trinidad cacao, but in other countries having improved their quality, as MR. W. GORDON GORDON pointed out. The Commission was set up as the outcome of complaints received from the merchants and commission houses in America, most, if not all, of which were traced to a single firm of consumers in Boston, Mass.; and it is significant that though that firm was, with the other large cacao consuming firms, invited to submit its views, it failed to reply to the letter of the Commission, a circumstance which, not unnaturally, caused some surprise. The Commission realising, perhaps, what scanty grounds there were for the suggestion that the value of Trinidad cacao was not so favoured in foreign countries as it used to be, extended the scope of their enquiry in other directions, and took the opportunity of investigating the practice of "claying" cacao, and of considering the desirability of setting up standards and of providing for inspection of exports. The consensus of opinion against standardisation and inspection was so marked that the Commissioners did not see their way to recommend the adoption of either expedient. Against standardisation it was urged that something in its nature was already in operation in the Colony, owing to the practice of exporters sending types of their brands to their correspondents, and selling their cacao with reference to those types. Against inspection it was urged that this would prove unduly harassing to the planters and merchants who pointed out that it would make it difficult to fulfil any considerable order received a day or two before the ship sailed if cacao had to be inspected. The question of claying cacao, a practice which has been observed in Trinidad for many years, provoked a more general expression of views. The process consists of coating the cacao with a thin covering of a very fine ferruginous clay, the object being to prevent the bean from becoming

mouldy in wet weather, to keep it bright and uniform in appearance, and to help to preserve its aroma. It was introduced from Venezuela and first applied to the fine estates cacao, and the Commissioners found that with regard to that type it had not been practised to excess. But there are black sheep in every flock and for a short period in 1913 it was found that some small country shopkeepers had clayed the cacao produced on small holdings, and collected by them, to excess, with the result that complaints were at once received. It is to be feared that in many cases the offenders were prompted by a desire to increase the weight of the cacao; but it is only fair to say that when a notice had been published and circulated by the Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Society, and the Cacao Planters' Association this excessive claying was at once abandoned. In every community there are selfish people who for the prospect of a temporary gain will ship immature or unsuitable produce. We have seen it again and again in the case of fruit, and have frequently called attention to the matter in these columns. In the circumstances the prompt action of the agricultural and commercial bodies in Trinidad in issuing their warning cannot be too highly commended. In conclusion we incline to the belief that though there were insufficient grounds for the appointment of this Commission in so far as its original objects are concerned, it may yet prove to have done good if it brings home to the smaller planters and producers the paramount importance of devoting the utmost care to the cultivation and curing of their cacao. It has been demonstrated that while there has been no depreciation in the value of the Trinidad product, other than that resulting from ordinary market fluctuations, other parts of the world have been creeping up to the Trinidad standard, and it should be the object of the planters to ensure that Trinidad shall continue to occupy the predominant position she now fills among the cacao-producing countries.

#### INDIA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

**A**T a meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council held at Delhi on the 17th of March, the subject of the development of the Indian sugar industry was discussed on the following motion of the Hon. Rai Bahadur Sita Nath Roy:—

"That this Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that prompt and effective measures may be taken by the Government throughout British India (a) to increase the cultivation of sugar-cane and date-palm, (b) to encourage and extend the manufacture of sugar, both refined and unrefined, by existing or improved indigenous methods, (c) to promote the starting of new sugar factories on modern, scientific bases, and that financial and other kinds of assistance may be rendered by the Government for the carrying out of the above objects in an effective manner."

Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Clark, the Secretary to the Government of India and the Minister for Commerce and Industry respectively, for an account of whose speeches we are indebted to the *Indian Trade*

*Journal*, spoke, on behalf of the Government, against the motion, which, it was stated, they were unable to accept. Mr. Kershaw pointed out the impracticability of adopting the Java systems of cultivation, with its relatively high returns, and laid stress on the impossibility of bringing pressure to bear on the farmer as to the direction his cultivation should take, or the manner of it, on his own lands. It was, however, prepared to encourage cane cultivation on Government lands suitable for cane, of which there were large areas available. In fact, in Assam an experiment was being carried out which involved the cultivation of 1,000 acres, and in three years' time it would be possible to decide whether the scheme were a failure or not. He pointed out also that Dr. Barber at the Central Station at Coimbatore had succeeded in growing sugar-cane from seed for the first time in India, and was engaged in endeavouring to cross the hardy canes of Northern India with some rich tropical canes. Mr. Clark pointed out that the essential condition for a successful sugar industry was a cheap cane, and to obtain this the yield would have to be greatly improved. He deprecated strongly the fostering of industries with the funds of the State, and considered that the proper course had been taken by the Government, viz., the prosecution of the vitally important scientific research, and that the policy of the Government was only to give pecuniary aid when any venture would form an object lesson to the community. With an existing crop of about 2,500,000 tons of sugar, India imports in normal times 800,000 tons of sugar, and the tendency of the importation prior to the war, was to increase rather than diminish. There being plenty of suitable land and an abundance of labour it is difficult to understand how it is that India continues to be an importing country so far as sugar is concerned. We are afraid that on the lines laid down by the Government there will be little chance of a substantial increase in production. The scientific part of the work is all very well, but it is of little use unless there are practical men and business concerns to work hand-in-hand with it. The ideal cane that Dr. Barker seeks will be long in coming unless he can introduce his canes to the crucible of practice—not the practice of the ryot's *gur farm*, but the practice of the complete factory manufacture. No doubt there are many difficulties in the way, not the least of which is the temperament of the native. But if a cane-farming central factory concern with East Indian farmers can be made a success in Trinidad, why should it not be possible in India? We cannot help thinking that the extension of the present 5 per cent. protective duty, equivalent to 10s. to 12s. per ton in normal times, to a reasonable figure such as would encourage capitalists to invest in substantial factory schemes, would do more for the development of the industry than anything else. The scientific agricultural sugar work which the Indian Government is doing so much to foster would then have a real chance of producing practical results.

## THE VICTORIA LEAGUE AND HEALTH PROBLEMS.

WE have recently received a copy of the Report of Proceedings of the Imperial Health Conference and Exhibition, held at the Imperial Institute in May, 1914, under the auspices of the Victoria League, and presided over by the COUNTESS OF JERSEY, President of the League. The Victoria League, of which the KING and QUEEN are Patrons, was founded in 1901 as a non-party Association of British men and women, in memory of Her Majesty the late QUEEN VICTORIA, for the purpose of promoting "Closer Union between British Subjects living in different parts of the World"; and it co-operates in accordance with its aims with other bodies of a similar character. Its objects, as will thus be seen, are closely associated with some of those of the Royal Colonial Institute, with which, indeed, it is in a measure affiliated; but its aims are, perhaps, more directed towards social and domestic subjects than are those of the older body, and it has the distinction of being chiefly "manned by women," as SIR EDWARD COOK wittily said of it in his closing address to the conference. The conference was divided into the two important sections of "Town Planning and Housing" and "Care of Child Life." In his opening address MR. HARCOURT, Secretary of State for the Colonies, referred to the fact that two entirely new capital cities were at the present time in course of construction on the most approved modern and up-to-date lines, namely, Delhi for the Indian Empire and Canberra for the Commonwealth of Australia, whilst SIR FREDERICK LUGARD and he, himself, were personally engaged in planning out a new capital for Northern Nigeria, in which it was hoped to provide the best tropical conditions of segregation and of sanitation. Each of these new capitals is being laid out on a fresh site, virgin soil so to speak; and there being, therefore, no old constructional evils to amend, they should present unique examples of perfection in town planning. Delegates were present at the conference from practically all the Overseas Dominions and Crown colonies, the West Indies being represented by DR. H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS, C.M.G., of Dominica (for the Leeward Islands), DR. H. M. ALSTON, of Trinidad, and MRS. CECIL MAY, of British Guiana, whilst a paper was read from DR. ANGUS MACDONALD, of Jamaica, on the subject of "Town Planning and Child Welfare" in that colony. This paper was referred to in our issue of June 30th, 1914, and again by MR. LUKE M. HULL, in his article on "Housing in the West Indies," which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of 28th July last. Many other excellent papers were read and addresses delivered, the most practical dealing with workmen's houses and the care and preservation of child-life as presented in their various phases throughout the Empire. The spirit in which this Imperial Health Conference and Exhibition was conceived and carried through, reflects the highest possible credit on the Victoria League and its Executive Committee, affording an

earnest of its successful work in the cause of Imperial health and sanitation, and deserving of our whole-hearted approval and best wishes for its future activities.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee and the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the West India Committee for 1914 are being posted to members this week. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 15, Seething Lane, on Thursday, May 13th, at 3 p.m.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 rs. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

The West India Committee continue to receive many letters complimenting them on the Map of the West Indies published under their auspices. Mr. Guy Wyatt writes: "It is excellent, and in the folder case for table or shelf splendid. It deserves to be universally popular." The British Cotton Growing Association considers it "one of the best maps we have ever seen of the West Indian islands," adding that they find it very useful. Mr. James Miller, of James Miller and Co., writes in the same strain, while sending a further order for copies of the map for Trinidad.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

During the year to date 36 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Barbados	... 5	Grenada	... 1
Tobago	... 5	Nevis	... 1
British Guiana	... 4	St. Kitts	... 1
Jamaica	... 2	Trinidad	... 3
Antigua	... 1	London	... 9
British Honduras	1	Country	... 3

## THE DUTCH STANDARD.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and Sir George E. Foster, K.C.M.G., Minister of Trade and Commerce for the Dominion of Canada on the subject of the Dutch Standard:—

25th March, 1915.

Sir,

I am directed to send you herewith a copy of correspondence which has passed between the West India Committee and the Foreign Office relative to the Dutch Standard.\* It appearing that the No. 16 Standard issued in 1914 was appreciably darker in colour than the corresponding Standard for the preceding year, and that as the result certain kinds of sugar were in consequence being subjected to a higher duty on entering the Dominion than they were in 1913, my Committee thought it desirable to ascertain if any changes had been made in the Standard in recent years.

2. Sir Edward Grey requested His Majesty's Ministers at the Hague to enquire into the matter, and on January 14th last furnished my Committee with a report from Mr. E. J. Labarre, British Vice-Consul at Amsterdam. From this you will notice that the Dutch Standard has ceased altogether to have any official imprimatur in Holland since the Netherlands Government discontinued assessing its sugar duties according to it, and that the Standards are now prepared annually by two Sugar Brokers in Holland at the request and under the auspices of the Netherlands Trading Society—an unofficial body. Mr. Labarre further points out that it is admitted that the Standards are subject to variation.

3. In the circumstances I am directed to ask whether His Majesty's Ministers in the Dominion of Canada will not seriously consider the desirability of discontinuing the use of the Dutch Standard altogether. It is significant that this system of assessment should have been dropped by the Netherlands Government, and, as you are no doubt aware, it has been abandoned in the United States, and by practically every other Foreign country of importance.

Trusting that this matter may receive your favourable consideration,

I have the honour, etc.,

[Signed] ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,  
Secretary.

The Hon. Sir George Foster, K.C.M.G.,  
Ottawa.

Ottawa, April 20th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Aspinall,

I have yours of the 26th ult., and thank you for the correspondence you were good enough to send me. The matter has engaged the attention of my Department and the Government.

The Dutch Standard has always formed a basis for computation of import duties since the time of Confederation, of course, in co-operation with the polariscope test, and appears to have been satisfactory both to the trade and to the Customs' Department.

The difficulties that have arisen owing to the darker colour of the No. 16 Standard issued in 1914 have brought the subject under review, and especially as affecting the arrangement made with the British West Indies. The Dutch Standard, as you know, is the test referred to in the agreement between Canada and these islands, and cannot be altered or abandoned by the Government of Canada acting under its own powers. Any change as it affects our own tariff would have to be made by the legislature, and any change as affecting the arrangement with the West India Islands could only be made by mutual consent, and after communication and conference.

\* This Correspondence was published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 430, page 130.

The matter is engaging the attention of the Government, and in the meantime we are awaiting the Standard of the present year.

Yours sincerely,  
[Signed] GEORGE E. FOSTER.

In a letter to Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G., dated March 15th, Sir George Foster states that arrangements have been made by which, for the present, West Indian sugars not over 16 Dutch Standard will be entered into Canada on the same basis as to Dutch standard as prevailed in 1913.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### The Battle of Hill 60.

In continuation of the offensive of the Allies, whose aim is to make themselves masters of the positions on which the lines of German trenches are based, the British following up their Neuve Chapelle success, seized Hill 60, a slight elevation at Zwartelen, near Ypres. It changed hands more than once when the French held this front, but since January the Germans have held the crest. The attack, which was preceded by sapping that had been in progress for some time, culminated in an explosion under the enemy's trenches, one of the greatest feats of its kind in the war. The hill was then rushed, and its occupation completed before nightfall under a heavy bombardment, the range being accurately known to the Germans. On the following and subsequent days determined, but unavailing efforts were made to dislodge the British, with severe losses on both sides. Our motor machine guns proved their value by keeping up a raking fire on the enemy's reinforcements as they hastened to assist their front line engaged in hand to hand contests with our troops. Though the fight for Hill 60 was a minor one compared to Neuve Chapelle, it was a notable exploit. As "Eye-witness" says: "What our troops withstood can to some degree be realised if it be remembered that the space fought over on the four and a half days between the 17th and 21st April was only about 250 yards in length by about 200 in depth. On to that small area the enemy for hours on end hurled tons of metal and high explosive, and, at times, the hill-top was wreathed in clouds of poisonous fumes."

### Gallant Canadians.

Meanwhile the Germans, too, are preparing for their Spring offensive, and seem as determined as ever to hack their way to the coast. They concentrated troops north of Ypres, reinforcing their line there by an army corps. For psychological reasons they directed their first efforts at the points of junction of the British, French and Belgian forces, by means of a heavy bombardment of the French position between Bixschoote and Lange-marck, and by the emission of a large volume of thick, yellow smoke, which was carried by a favourable wind into the French trenches, asphyxiating





The South side of the carved stone.

**SOME NEWLY FOUND ROCK CARVINGS IN ST. VINCENT.**

The East face showing the basin (left).

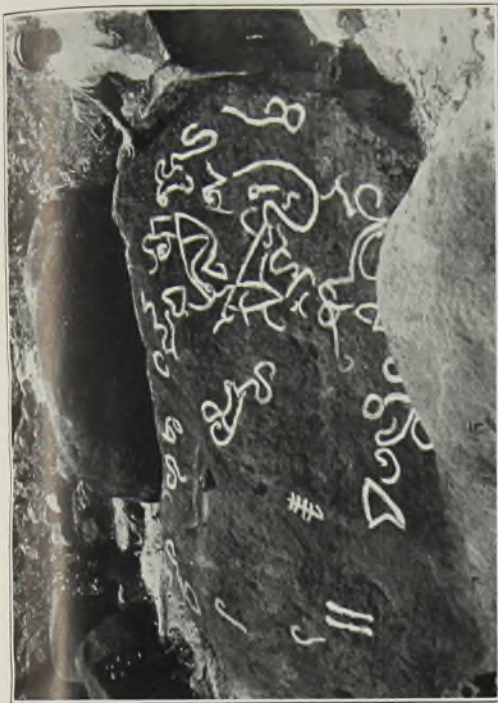


Fig. A.



Fig. B.

**A CURIOUS CATERPILLAR FROM BRITISH GUIANA.**



Fig. C.

the defenders, who were obliged to retire behind the Yser Canal on the front Boesinghe-Steenstraete, leaving four guns behind. This movement laid bare the extreme left of the British line, held by the Canadian Division, which was also obliged to fall back to keep in touch with the main body. But, with tactical skill, its brigadier, General Alderson, held a regiment, the 16th, in reserve, having placed it perpendicularly instead of parallel, to his front, facing north. When, therefore, the Germans broke through from Langemarck towards the Canal, and swung round to cut the division off, the 16th was ready to meet them, and by its heroic stand, was able to stay their advance at the critical moment. In the words of Sir John French the Canadians "saved the situation," and the Dominion, with the whole Empire, thrills with pride. Subsequently in a brilliant counter-attack, in which they led, the lost French guns were recovered. The losses were heavy, many of them due to gas fumes, which the enemy employed in violation of the Hague Convention. Since the battle of Langemarck the French have recovered some of their lost ground, and the village of Lizerne, which has twice changed hands, is in the possession of the Allies.

#### In Alsace and France,

Fierce fighting continues in the Vosges, the valleys of the Fecht and the Lauch being the most active. The spur, which commands Sillakarwassen, an elevation just over the Alsace frontier, has been taken by the French, who, after vigorous efforts, also, drove the enemy from Schnepfenriethkopf, a height fifteen miles south-west of Colmar, which is astride of the strategic railway to Strassburg. To meet this menace, the Germans have, for some time, been extending a flanking movement along the valley of the Fecht, and temporarily regained Hartmannsweilerskopf, which has been the scene of so many attacks and counter-attacks. But by evening it was again in the possession of the French. Before them is another crest, the summit of which is higher by 40 feet than Schnepfenriethkopf, whose altitude is 4,000 feet, and the railway is distant nine miles through diversified country. Progress in this region must necessarily be slow.

In the Woevre counter-attacks on Les Eparges have failed, the French in the Ailly, Montmare, and Le Prêtre woods steadily advancing.

On the southern wing of the British Army French troops have captured the famous spur south-east of Notre Dame de Lorette. It forms the eastern point of the Artois hills, the summits of which command the plain, which stretches away below them. They are to this region very much what the heights of the Meuse are to the Woevre plateau. The Allies are now masters of them to the edge of the villages of Souchez and Ablain-Saint Nazaire.

In Champagne the Germans captured in the region of Beauséjour some advanced trenches, but were able to maintain their advantage only in part.

Will the Spring end this backward and forward movement of the line? That is the question.

#### On the Eastern Front.

In the Carpathians neither side has made any material progress for some time. The reason is uncertain. It may be that an early thaw has made the roads impassable, swollen the rivers, and generally rendered extreme military operations on a large scale difficult. But, on the other hand, we are told that the enemy has brought up his heavy artillery, a sign alike of his confidence in the security of his positions and the state of transport. Can it be that there is a balance of forces on this front, producing deadlock? At any rate the Germanic Allies are still in possession of the Uzsok Pass. Nevertheless fighting still continues in the upper valley of the Stryj, and on the heights, which are 3,000 feet above the sea-level.

The enemy seems to be at his old game of attempting to create diversions at far-away points. He is again becoming active at the East Prussian end of the line, and has even tried again to reach the fortress of Ossowiec, which has held out for more than two months, though the Germans have in front of it the mortars and howitzers with which they reduced Antwerp and Maubeuge. But the masked batteries of the improvised defences of the little Polish fortress have frequently obtained the upper hand of the German siege artillery. Cupolas, which were considered so important before the war, have proved but easy targets condemned to early destruction, though perhaps it is too soon to prophesy even on that, at any rate until one learns the secret of Przemysl's resistance. Moreover, only time can tell the value of the cupola as it is in the great fortresses of the Rhine. Meanwhile the masked battery holds its own from the Dardanelles to the North Sea.

#### The Dardanelles.

Why was the Navy asked to do the impossible here? The question is one that is receiving a reply in authoritative quarters, which is not calculated to strengthen confidence in the Government. It was supposed when the task of forcing "the Narrows" was first attempted, (1) that a military force was co-operating with our ships, though nothing was said about it, (2) that the Admiralty had such information with regard to the defences of the Straits as to permit of battleship-fire destroying them unaided. Neither was true; combined warfare on our side is only beginning now. In what is practically a swift running river, the banks of which are of a character so diversified as to lend themselves to defence which turned to excellent military purpose by the Turks under German direction, authority has learned its lesson only after terrible losses. Unfortunately the delay, too, has increased the difficulty of the task. For the enemy in addition to concentrating large forces both on the Asiatic and European side of the Straits, has perfected his defences in other direc-

tions. Our ships may silence a fort and blow it to pieces, but the guns are seldom destroyed. The most serious difficulties to be overcome are, however, invisible batteries, mobile howitzers, and the fact that mine-sweepers cannot keep afloat in the performance of their hazardous duty. For even such bad shots as the Turks can hit a target in the Dardanelles with something like accuracy, especially small craft which have no protection.

#### Combined Operations at Last.

The first official announcement of these was made on April 26th, when it was stated that the attack on the Dardanelles by the Fleets and the Army had been "resumed." From Turkish sources the news comes that the Allied Forces have landed at three points on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and at Kum Kale, the south entrance to the Straits: from our own, that they are meeting with serious opposition, though, so far, their advance is "completely successful." The danger is that these operations might easily develop into a campaign on a great scale, which could not but react on our conduct of the war in the main theatre of conflict. In truth we are doing exactly as Germany desires in the Dardanelles, and the question is, should we?

The French Navy has suffered another naval loss in the Mediterranean in the sinking of the armoured cruiser *Léon Gambetta* by an Austrian submarine off the Italian coast. Unhappily only 136 out of her crew of 710 were saved. As there were only a few survivors from the *Bouvet*, which went down in the Dardanelles in March, our deepest sympathy goes out to France in such heavy losses of personnel, the most vital element in naval warfare, and the only one which cannot be replaced.

#### War in the Air.

The French aviators have been particularly active. Ten bombs were dropped on the railway workshops at Leopoldshöhe, now being used for the manufacture of shells. Another ten were dropped on the powder magazine at Rothweill, setting it on fire. The aeroplanes, in spite of a heavy fire directed against them by the enemy, returned safely. In reply to the bombardment of Nancy by a Zeppelin, a French aviator threw five bombs on the German headquarters. The projectiles all fell on the buildings in which the Imperial Staff were installed at Metzies Charleville. Equally successful was an attack on the station which supplies Metz with power and light, the squadron suffering no mishap though subjected to a violent cannonade from the forts. Freiburg, to which important works from Alsace were removed after the war begun, has again been bombarded, as also German military buildings at Ostend.

#### The End of "E 15."

This submarine, while engaged in reconnoitring duties in the Dardanelles, unfortunately ran aground at Kephez Point. As she was one of a late class, and would have been a valuable prize both for

service and for her details of construction, the Turks made great efforts to secure her. It was therefore necessary that she should be destroyed, and the work, after long-range battleship fire had been tried in vain, was entrusted to volunteer crews. The picket boats, in which they embarked upon their hazardous enterprise were entirely without protection from gun-fire, and their highest speed was no more than fifteen knots. With shells falling around them from Fort 8, and from smaller guns at short range, the plucky cutting out party torpedoed the submarine, and rendered her useless. One of the boats was sunk, but the crew was saved by the other, and there was only one casualty. The crew of E15 are prisoners of war in Constantinople.

The Turkish Navy, which has been displaying some activity, succeeded in torpedoing a British transport, the *Manitou*, in the Aegean Sea, with considerable loss of life. The British convoy, however, drove the attacking vessel, the *Demir Hussar*, aground at Chios, where the crew have been interned.

#### In South-West Africa.

By well planned and carried out simultaneous movements the Union Forces have occupied Keetmanshoop, a thriving settlement at the junction of the railway running northwards to Windhoek and westwards to Luderitz Bay. One column worked round from the north, another operated from the east, while yet another forced its way through the Karas Mountains, in which the enemy held numerous posts. But as the flanking movements progressed the enemy was obliged to fall back on Keetmanshoop, which itself was evacuated as the three attacking columns met to time to the north of it. The only determined stand made by the Germans was at Garuchab. The whole of the southern part of the Colony is now, practically, in British hands. Apparently, the enemy is surprised at the strength of the Army South Africa is sending against them. They thought that her hands would be full with the rebellion they intrigued to bring about. Another of their miscalculations.

#### Liveliness in the North Sea.

During the forenoon of May 1st H.M.S. *Recruit*, one of our older destroyers, was torpedoed by a submarine near the Galloper and North Hinder Lightships in the North Sea. Later in the day the trawler *Colombia* was attacked and sunk by two enemy torpedo boats. The latter were chased by our destroyers *Laforey*, *Leonidas*, *Lawford* and *Lark*, and the Germans made off, but were both sunk after a running fight of about an hour. Two German officers and 44 men were rescued and made prisoners.

(To be continued.)

A list of publications may be obtained, post free, from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### III.—THE EXTENT TO WHICH MAURITIUS MIGHT INCREASE ITS CROP.

In the two preceding CIRCULARS we gave the replies of the Governors of British Guiana and Fiji respectively to the circular letter which the West India Committee addressed to the Governments of the sugar-producing colonies asking what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry. It will be remembered that Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana, forwarded a memorandum from Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., showing that 2,500,000 tons of sugar, or sufficient to meet the annual needs of the United Kingdom, could be produced in that Colony alone. Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., Governor of Fiji, forwarded a report showing how sugar production could be increased there by 77,363 tons from 94,709. Through the courtesy of Sir J. R. Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., we are able to supplement these reports with one from Mauritius as follows:—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.  
12 March, 1915.

Sir,  
With reference to your letter of the 6th of January and to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Governor to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a report by the Director of Agriculture and the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, which gives information regarding the production of sugar in Mauritius.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
H. HENNIKER HEATON.  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary of the West India Committee,

[Enclosure.]

#### REPORT ON THE PRODUCTION OF SUGAR.

The attached tables, prepared by the Statistician for the Blue-book, give details of acreages under different crops on December 31st, 1913. The total area under sugar-cane cultivation was 153,416.5 arpents (1 arpent = 1.043 acres) of which 115,974.83 arpents were cultivated upon estates of 192,514.23 by estates, and 23,460.60 by "metayers", and 37,441.67 by small planters.

This total area of 153,416.5 arpents was an increase of 5,319 arpents over the area for 1912. This increase in area took place mainly in the Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart and Grand Port districts where certain properties which formerly had large areas under wild aloe fibre or waste have extended their cultivation or have leased their lands for cane cultivation to small planters.

The agricultural statistics for 1914 are now in course of collection and it is anticipated that there may be a further slight increase of the area under cane cultivated by small planters or "metayers."

Estates with factories cultivate at present 50 per cent. of the total area under cane. Their total area is 137,500 arpents, of which 76,200 arpents are under cane culture. About 15,650 arpents on these estates are in other cultiva-

tions or assolements (under leguminous crops) and about 16,150 arpents are occupied by forests, tram-lines, factories, camps, etc. There are therefore on these estates 29,500 arpents of land which might be considered to be available for cane cultivation. These lands are inferior in quality and are usually far distant from the factories, but under favourable conditions of labour and of market it is estimated that some 20,000 arpents of these lands could be cultivated with sugar-cane.

Estates without factories cultivate 40,000 arpents of cane out of a total of nearly 100,000 arpents. The uncultivated lands on these estates are of poor quality or are too far distant from factories. It cannot be estimated that more than 5,000 to 6,000 arpents could be profitably cultivated with cane.

There are areas of lands outside sugar estates which could be cultivated in cane under special conditions. It is estimated that these areas amount to 10,000 arpents, but the conditions necessary for such exploitations would involve a larger labour supply, a better average price for sugar, and irrigation schemes for the Northern Districts and for Black River.

The total area that might be placed under cane cultivation is therefore estimated to be 37,000 arpents over and above the present cultivation of 153,000 arpents. This additional area of land might be estimated to produce (reckoning five-sixths of area annually productive) 60,000 tons of sugar.

The following table shows the production of sugar in Mauritius and its average sale price for the past ten years:

	Total output. Metric tons.	Average sale price per 50 kilos. Rs
1904-5	143,659	9.71
1905-6	191,563	7.00
1906-7	220,132	6.60
1907-8	164,083	7.10
1908-9	195,897	7.60
1909-10	252,000	8.43
1910-11	222,830	7.00
1911-12	169,550	9.68
1912-13	213,059	7.00
1913-14	249,703	6.95
Average	221,428.3	7.74
1914-15	275,100 (estimate)	

These figures show that during the past five years there has been an increased output of sugar made in the Colony. This is partly accounted for by reason of increased acreage, but there have been improvements in methods of cultivation upon sugar estates and marked improvements in the factories of the Colony.

With an assured minimum average sale price for sugar in any year of Rs. 7.50 per 50 kilos, estates would be prepared to extend their areas under intensive cultivation, and the average output for the Colony might be estimated to be 240,000 metric tons—the increase to be expected from further improvements in factories being offset by the decrease in output to be expected from lands recently sold out to small planters.

It is also to be expected that irrigation of canes in Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart districts when the proposed irrigation schemes have been completed should result in a further increase of at least 15,000 tons of sugar from the lands already under cane.

The total possible average output of sugar for the Colony would, therefore, under favourable conditions, reach 395,000 tons annually.

The limiting factors are:

- (1). World's price of sugar.
- (2). Labour.
- (3). Distance of lands from factories.

The minimum average sale price of sugar at Mauritius to justify increase in area under cane (considering the variability of climatic conditions) should be Rs. 7.50 per 50 kilos in any year, and it is possible that the labour and transport difficulties may in part be reduced by mechanical tillage and light tramway lines. It is possible also that effects of droughts (which at times are very severe) might tend to reduce the average crop output, as the effects of droughts on sugar-cane cultivation are not limited in Mauritius to one crop only.

(Signed) F. A. STOCKDALE,  
*Director of Agriculture.*

(Signed) HENRI ROBERT,  
*Statistician.*

15-15.

## TRINIDAD CACAO.

### Report of the Commission of Enquiry.

On April 22nd, 1914, the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, passed a resolution, at the instance of the Hon. C. de Verteuil, on the subject of cacao. In this it was urged that, in view of the depreciation of Trinidad cacao in the foreign markets owing to preventable causes, the local Government should take immediate steps to remedy the evil either by a system of inspection of all cacao exported, or by such other means as might be considered expedient.

A Commission comprising the Hons. H. C. Gollan, K.C.; A. G. Bell, C.M.G.; H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.; H. A. Alcazar, K. C., and Carl de Verteuil, and Messrs. J. B. D. Sellier, A. H. Cipriani and W. G. Freeman, was appointed on May 14th to enquire into the whole matter.

In the terms of reference it was assumed that Trinidad cacao had in fact depreciated in foreign markets and the Commissioners were directed merely to enquire into the causes of such depreciation; but the Commissioners decided that a comprehensive meaning should be given to their instructions and that evidence should be taken as far as possible under the following heads:—

- (a) The price of cacao at the present time and also in the past.
- (b) Any complaints that may have been received from brokers and manufacturers abroad by merchants and planters in Trinidad as to the character of cacao shipped from the Colony.
- (c) The practice of claying cacao.
- (d) The advisability or otherwise of standardization.
- (e) Any recommendations witnesses and others might have to make with respect to the remedies required to put the cacao industry on a sound basis.

The Commissioners, besides examining a number of witnesses orally, invited the views of Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd., Rowntree and Co., C. M. and C. Woodhouse, and Carey and Brown, of England, Hogins and Lee, of New York, and Walter Baker and Co., of Boston, Mass. All replied except the last-named firm, whose silence caused some surprise as they were "the exciting cause" of the appointment of the Commission.

The report which has now been published as Council Paper No. 21, was laid before the Legislative Council on March 5th last. Dealing first with the question of prices the Commissioners find that, though some variation is shown in the price of cacao depending as it does upon the supply and demand as Messrs. Fry pointed out, the price of Trinidad cacao has not fallen if the average for five years is considered.

Prior to December, 1913, and subsequently to January, 1914, the method of conducting the export trade in cacao is shown by the evidence to have been satisfactory on the whole; but with respect to shipments from the Colony during those two months, it is undoubted that complaints were made, although most of them emanated from Messrs. Walter Baker and Co. "It may be," say the Commissioners, "that those shipments were not very different from previous ones, and that the fact that the New York market was well supplied with cacao during the two months in question may have had something to do with the strength, if not with the actual making of the complaints;" but the Commissioners find as a fact that shipments made during December, 1913, contained a larger percentage of waste than in former periods, though it is only fair to remember that the percentage of waste must necessarily be greater at the commencement of crop. Shipments after January, 1914, were as good as, if not better than, in previous years, and no evidence was forthcoming as to any complaints with regard to them.

### The Claying of Cacao.

Much evidence was given with respect to the claying of cacao, and, with one or two exceptions, the general opinion held by witnesses was that the practice had much to recommend it, if not carried to excess. It is said to prevent the bean from becoming mouldy in wet weather, to improve its marketable value by giving it a bright and uniform appearance and to help to preserve its aroma. So far as "estates" cacao (*i.e.*, cacao produced from the class of larger estates) is concerned, the Commissioners are of opinion that there was no reason to believe that excessive claying was at any time practised. But as regards "shop" cacao (*i.e.*, cacao produced on small holdings and mainly collected by small shopkeepers in the country) the case was during the earlier and middle parts of the year 1913 very different, for the evidence makes it abundantly clear that during that period many country shopkeepers appear to have overlooked the relative importance of cacao and clay, and to have decided that, as clay was the cheaper, its amount in the combination should increase at the expense of the cacao.

Strong complaints of the excessive amount of clay at once arose in New York, and upon information with regard to them being received in Trinidad, the question of excessive claying was at once dealt with. The question came before the Board of Agriculture in July, 1913, and a special Committee was appointed whose report was adopted in October, 1913, with a

proviso that the Government should be asked to refer it for the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Society and the Cacao Planters' Association. This was done, and a joint notice was published and extensively circulated in February, 1914, calling the attention of persons interested in the cacao industry to the prevalence of excessive claying and to the inevitable harm that must be done to a staple industry if the practice was not reduced to reasonable limits. The merchants of Port-of-Spain co-operated by refusing to pay the price of cacao for clay, and excessive claying was, for the time being in any case, put a stop to.

#### Standardisation and Inspection.

The general consensus of opinion amongst those who gave oral evidence or sent in written statements appears to be that standardisation is at least unnecessary, if not distinctly objectionable. The argument is advanced that something in the nature of standardisation is actually in operation in the colony owing to the practice of exporters sending "types" of their brands to their correspondents, and selling their cacao by reference to those types. If a particular shipment is not up to type, then the purchaser can at once discover the fact and his remedy is equally clear. He can either refuse to take delivery or claim and enforce a rebate on the price quoted to him. The Commissioners are in accord with the general opinion and do not advise any legislation to enforce standardisation.

The question of inspection before exportation was also considered, and one of the Commissioners prepared proposals for creating a system of inspection. The witnesses were all strongly opposed to inspection, because it would harass them in the conduct of their business. Particular emphasis was laid upon the difficulty that would be placed in the way of quickly fulfilling any considerable order received, for instance, a day or two before the ship sailed, if the cacao had to be inspected first. The Commissioners are of opinion that merely to inspect the cacao in bulk would be futile, as its adulteration with inferior beans would be possible before it was put into bags. On the other hand if inspection were delayed until the last moment just before the bags were put into the lighters to be taken off to the steamer, then great difficulty would be experienced in getting the cacao on board unless a large staff of inspectors were available. On careful consideration the Commissioners are agreed that no case for a system of inspection has been made out.

#### Recommendations.

The Commissioners are of opinion that the evidence has disclosed a satisfactory method, on the whole, of carrying on business in the cacao industry. It is to be expected that individual cases of gross carelessness, or even of dishonesty, must periodically occur, but no facts have been proved which point to there being anything unsound and calling for comprehensive legislation in the industry. In one

direction, however, the Commissioners are of opinion that steps might be taken to prevent the reappearance of the most objectionable practice of over-claying. To the moderate use of clay by the people who cure the beans it seems clear, on the evidence, that there is no objection to be taken. What is objectionable is that it should be used, seriously, to make weight, and this, there is reason to believe, has been done amongst small buyers. This practice should be made to cease once and for all, and the Commissioners are of opinion that this most desirable object can only be attained by legislation making it illegal to keep or use clay on premises licensed to deal in cacao.

#### SOME HINTS FOR CURING CACAO.

The following suggestions for curing cacao and obtaining nice round beans with fine aroma and good break are given as an appendix to the report of the Trinidad Cacao Commission which is summarised above.

When the pods are broken in the fields the entire contents, including the placenta or guts, must be taken to the curing house and put to sweat along with the cacao, and only removed when the cacao is put into the drying houses. The sweating ought to be from three to four days in one box, then turned over into another for two days before being turned out into the drying houses. Of course, when drying space is much required sweating for shorter periods may become necessary.

When the cacao is in the sweating boxes it ought to be well covered up with banana leaves at each sweating, and these leaves ought not to be thrown away, but used over and over again along with fresh leaves as the curing of the crop progresses and only be turned into manure when the crop is finished. Removable covers to the sweating boxes causes quicker fermentation. The placenta or guts make a splendid manure, and ought to be put in the manure heap and used when planting out supplies of cacao, cedar or any other trees, as it makes them grow rapidly. Placenta when thoroughly dried is saleable and would pay to export could it be pressed into bales so as to economise in freight and cost of bagging. The foregoing suggestions will undoubtedly assist in improving the quality of the cacao cured, but of course in rainy weather discretion must be used as to the period of sweating as on no account must black cacao be turned out. Claying of cacao ought to be avoided as much as possible and when necessary only sufficient to give a uniform colour ought to be used.

THROUGH a printer's error Mr. Henry Schnarr was described in last CIRCULAR as being of British Guiana instead of British Houduras, of which Colony he is a member of the Defence Force.

## LONG STAPLE COTTON.

### Its Susceptibility to the Boll Weevil.

The Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture has been collating statistics regarding the production of Upland Long Staple cotton. This term is applied to lint—other than that of Sea Island cotton— $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches or over in length, short staple being under  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

The following table shows the proportion of long staple, short staple and Sea Island cotton respectively to the total cotton crop of the United States and the average yield per acre in 1914:—

State.	Proportion of entire cotton crop.			Yields per acre.		Sea Is. lbs.
	Long. Per cent.	Short. Per cent.	Sea Is. Per cent.	Long. lbs.	Short lbs.	
Virginia	1.0	99.0	—	230	255	—
North Carolina	1.4	98.6	—	250	283	—
South Carolina	4.0	95.4	0.6	265	256	140
Georgia	2.5	95.0	2.5	210	237	185
Florida	7.0	38.0	55.0	155	220	165
Alabama	.5	99.5	—	255	209	—
Mississippi	11.0	89.0	—	215	194	—
Louisiana	2.0	98.0	—	150	162	—
Texas	.3	99.7	—	175	183	—
Oklahoma	1.0	99.0	—	185	212	—
Arkansas	6.0	94.0	—	185	193	—
Tennessee	.5	99.5	—	180	196	—
Missouri	3.0	98.0	—	325	295	—
California	25.0	75.0	—	500	500	—

While the price of short staple varied from 6.0 cents to 7.3 cents per lb., long staple fetched from 7 cents to 13 cents. The average prices of Sea Island were 15 cents in Florida, 15.8 cents in Georgia and 19 cents in South Carolina. The maximum production of long staple in the rich delta lands of the lower Mississippi Valley, to which this type was until recent years, largely confined, was between 300,000 and 400,000 bales. Since the coming of the boll weevil, to which the older varieties of long staple appear to have been particularly susceptible, the production there seems to have diminished to about half the former maximum production and in some counties to have almost entirely ceased. The entire production of the United States, as indicated by these reports, is slightly over 400,000 bales, but these figures probably include some of the longer varieties under  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length.

While the yields shown in the table indicate that long staple is only slightly less productive than short staple, and in several states even larger yields are shown, a study of individual reports indicates that the yields per acre of long staple varieties at present generally grown are less than those of short staple as a rule. While certain improved varieties of long staple may give a yield of lint equal to that of short varieties, the favourable showing in the table for average yields of long staple in comparison with short is partly due to the fact that the long staple is grown by the more progressive farmers on better land and with better cultivation, while the short staple is the average for all farmers.

The improved varieties of long staple upland

cotton developed in recent years by the specialists in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture are fully equal in yield of lint to the average short staple varieties.

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

### A Newly-Discovered Petroglyph.

By W. N. SANDS.

St. Vincent contains many interesting relics of her former aboriginal inhabitants. These include picture rocks or marked stones, stone and shell weapons and tools, pottery, and stones of various shapes and sizes for domestic use. There are several large petroglyphs or "marked stones" in different parts of the colony which have been described by, among others, the late Dr. C. W. Branch and the Rev. T. Huckerby. Quite recently another large specimen was discovered at Colonarie Estate, on the windward side of the island, by Mr. William B. Browne. The upper portion of the stone was exposed, and it seems strange that the markings on it were not noticed before. It lies near the north bank of the Colonarie River, about half a mile from the sea. A small branch of the main Colonarie River touches it on its southern side. The stone is composed of the common local granite and measures forty feet round the base as at present excavated, with a width of 12 feet from north to south across the centre at the top. On the summit there is a smooth basin which holds water with a surface area of 2 feet by 1.6 feet, and a depth of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in its deepest part. The eastern face of the rock is particularly well marked with figures of various shapes. It is probable that the whole of the eastern and south-eastern faces were decorated in this way, but owing to erosion and attrition the marks have become obliterated. The stone may have been used as an altar in connection with human sacrifices, and if so, the basin no doubt served as a receptacle for blood. The markings are nearly all shallow in character and none of them appear to represent human shapes, but from the time that has elapsed many of the figures are without doubt incomplete. As to whether the marks may be associated with the Caribs or some earlier race of Amerindians the writer is not in a position to judge.

Illustration (1) shows a view of the stone from the south; and (2) gives a good view of the basin and figures. In each photograph the lines have been accentuated with chalk.

### A Curious Caterpillar from Guiana.

For the three illustrations below those of the petroglyph we are indebted to Mr. G. E. Bodkin, B.A., F.R.S., Economic Biologist to the Department of Science and Agriculture of British Guiana. They represent a curious kind of caterpillar, which is occasionally encountered in the interior districts of British Guiana. The body is thickly covered with

long hair of a light canary yellow colour, while there is a shorter underlying coating of black hair which may be seen when the caterpillar assumes certain positions, as in illustration *C* which is a back view with the body extended on the twig. *B* shows the caterpillar rolled up "head to tail" and lying on the ground. *A* shows it on a twig with the head drawn in. Another species is to be found similar in all respects, except colour, which is a rich red brown, and corresponds exactly to the colour of the hair of the well-known "howling baboon" of these parts. On account of the similarity, the caterpillar has received the Creole nickname "Baboon Worm," which is applied to both species irrespective of colour.

The food plant of these insects is a plant known as "Burra Burra" (a commonly occurring weed belonging to the *Solanaceae*). Several attempts have been made to breed these caterpillars through to the adult stage, but all have proved unsuccessful.

## CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

### Some Practical Hints to Business Men.

In the second instalment of his notes upon trade opportunities in the West Indian markets which is published in the Weekly Report of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Watson P. Griffin makes various practical suggestions to Canadian exporters. He quotes Mr. Nunes, the Collector of Customs of Jamaica, as stating that Canadians are very careless about invoices, "American exporters cause the same trouble in a lesser degree, but English exporters rarely do, and Germans never." Wherever Mr. Griffin went in the West Indies he found a friendly attitude towards Canada; but almost every business man interviewed said that when orders were sent to the United States he got delivery of goods much more promptly than when they were sent to Canada. The complaint that he heard most frequently was that Canadian business houses drew against shipments long before the goods were delivered. If the draft was not accepted immediately because the goods had not arrived, it was presented again and again by the bank messenger to the intense annoyance of the merchant. He was told there was no such trouble with either American or English drafts, and he suggests that Canadian exporters should in every case write on the draft in red ink. "Hold for acceptance until arrival of goods."

Throughout the British West Indies a large proportion of the merchants have been accustomed to buy through New York commission houses nearly everything excepting what they imported from the United Kingdom. The New York commission merchants have for years made a specialty of the West Indian business. They usually give rather long credits and allow the merchants to remit instead of drawing on them. Many of the British merchants also give long credits, while before the war the

Germans were particularly ready to give time for payment. Mr. Griffin does not, however, advocate long credits, this being a matter which the exporter decides.

After touching on banking facilities, Mr. Griffin deals at some length with the anomalies of the system of currency which prevails in the West Indies through the use of both the English and Canadian currency.

The trade between the Maritime Provinces and the West Indies forms the subject of a special chapter. He shows that Canada should soon monopolise the West Indian flour market and states that if the Preferential Agreement accomplished nothing else for the Western and Central Provinces it would be well worth while having made it. Canned fruit can be supplied by Ontario and British Columbia, but owing to the advantage which they have in freight rates the Maritime Provinces will enjoy the largest share of trade in apples, potatoes, cabbages, butter, condensed milk, and cheese. Mr. Griffin believes that the Canadian Government, in securing a preferential agreement with the British West Indies, have conferred a great benefit upon the Maritime Provinces. While he was in British Guiana the opinion was freely expressed that when the present contract for the mail service between England and the West Indies expired in 1917 the new service should be by way of Canada—a scheme which was recommended by the Royal Commissioners but condemned as quite unsuitable for the West Indies generally.

## THE ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. VINCENT.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Reginald Popham Lobb, C.M.G., as Administrator of St. Vincent.

Mr. Lobb, who has been Colonial Secretary of Bermuda since 1908 was educated at Clifton and Christ's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1895. He became private Secretary to Sir Frederick Lugard in 1900, and was transferred to the Nupe Province as assistant resident in the following year. After filling the position of resident, acting and otherwise, in Zaria and Muri, during a period which covered the Kano-Sokoto campaign, in which he took part, he returned to England. He then took up the duties of second class clerk in the Colonial Office, which he continued to carry out until he was appointed to Bermuda.

In a recent number of the Florida Experiment Station Bulletin, Mr. H. E. Stevens, gives a preliminary account of a new disease of citrus trees which was first observed in the autumn of 1912 among the citrus groves of Florida. The disease appears equally on leaves, fruit and twigs, in the form of small circular spots from one-sixteenth to one-fourth of an inch in diameter, occurring either singly or in groups. The spots are raised above the surrounding white or gray membrane, which finally ruptures and turns outward forming a ragged margin round the spot. The grape-fruit is especially attacked by it.



## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below :*

- Allwood, Frank, (son of the late Mr. J. Allwood, Resident Magistrate, Jamaica), Royal Canadian Engineers, Canadian Contingent.
- Allwood, Dr. Stanley, (son of the late Mr. J. Allwood, Resident Magistrate, Jamaica), with the Red Cross in France.
- Anderson, Major, (served in Jamaica), Army Service Corps.
- Berkeley, Captain Rupert Edric Gifford Hardtman, (2nd son of late Capt. J. H. H. Berkeley, of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Adjutant 11th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry.
- Berkeley, Harold Maurice Hardtman, (eldest son of the late Captain J. H. H. Berkeley, of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Traveling Commissioner, Ashanti.
- Berkeley, Maurice Anthony Hardtman, (son of Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., Kt., and grandson of the late J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Rifle Brigade, Amesbury.
- Berkeley, Henry Segrave Hardtman, (eldest son of Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., Kt., and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Cantonment Magistrate and O.C. Lokoja, N. Nigeria.
- Berkeley, Thomas Berkeley Hardtman, (son of the late Humphrey George Hardtman Berkeley, late of Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Middlesex Regiment, Wollingham.
- Blackden, Brigadier-General L. S., General Officer Commanding the troops in Jamaica.
- Bliss, Major J. P., (Jamaica), 2nd West India Regiment.
- Boor, Alexander R., (son of Mr. J. Boor, pilot, Port Antonio, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.
- Bowen, 2nd Lieut. Horace G., (son of Mr. A. S. Bowen of Trinidad), 8th Service Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
- Bronley, Thomas Anthony Valentine Berkeley, (son of John Valentine Bronley, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), O.T.C., Marlborough College.
- Bronley, John Valentine, (son-in-law of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G.), Able Seaman in the R.N.A.S. Anti-Aircraft Corps.
- Bronley, J. E. M., (eldest son of Mr. John Valentine Bronley), 2nd Reserve Cavalry, Queen's Bays, Aldershot.
- Bryson, Private J. Maitland, (of Jamaica), 3rd Regiment, Victoria Rifles of Canada.
- Carew, Lieut. George, (Proprietor of Stowe Estate, Dominica), 7th Service Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment.
- Cargill, 2nd Lieut. G. B. Donald, (son of Mr. Justice Cargill, Jamaica), 3rd Battalion, The Border Regiment.
- Chambers, Colonel C. Ernest, V.D., O. C. 7th London Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. *At the Front.*
- Chambers, 2nd Lieut. Edward Coulthurst Gibbons, (son of Major Edward Chambers), Canadian Engineers, Toronto.
- Chambers, Colonel A. W., V.D., (late 15th Mounted Rifle Volunteers), appointed Hon. Colonel 17th London Rifles.
- Cowie, Christopher, (grandson of Mr. David Cowie, St. Vincent), Honourable Artillery Company.
- Cowie, 2nd Lieut. David, (grandson of Mr. David Cowie, St. Vincent), The Hertfordshire Regiment.
- Cressall, Lieut. Jack, (son of Mr. Paul Cressall, late of H.M. Customs, British Guiana), Royal Fusiliers.
- Currie, Lieut. James Mutrie, (son of the late James M. Currie, Belize, British Honduras), Royal Field Artillery.
- De Freitas, Lieut. Dudley A., (son of the Hon. D. S. De Freitas, of Grenada), The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- De Freitas, Lieut. Julian, (son of the Hon. D. S. De Freitas, of Grenada), The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- Dunn, 2nd Lieut. Ernest W., (late of the Collector General's Office, Jamaica), has received a Commission in Kitchener's Army.
- Eckel, 2nd Lieut. Percy (son of Mr. Edmund Eckel, late Assistant Receiver-General of Trinidad and Tobago), 8th Service Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
- England, Gunner Stanley, (of Falmouth, Jamaica), 6th Brigade, Canadian Contingent.
- England, Stewart, (of Falmouth, Jamaica), Victoria Rifles, Canadian Contingent.
- Fauce, Major B., 1st West India Regiment. Staff Officer.
- Fox, Private Harold, (son of Mr. Isaac Fox, of Vere, Clarendon, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.
- Fox, Harold, (of St. Andrew's, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.
- Gray, 2nd Lieut. Leslie B., (son of Mr. W. Bagget Gray, Kingston, Jamaica), 11th King's Liverpool Regiment.
- Gray, Wilton B., (son of Mr. W. Bagget Gray, Kingston, Jamaica), 22nd Battery, 5th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, 2nd Canadian Contingent.
- Haughton, Harold M. S., (son of Mr. R. S. Haughton, of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Engineers, Special Reserve.
- Hendriks, J. A. S., (youngest son of Mr. A. J. Hendriks, Black River, Jamaica), Royal Engineers.
- Holland, 2nd Lieut. E. L., (late lieutenant in Jamaica Reserve Regiment), 3rd Battalion Border Regiment.
- Holmes à Court, Thomas Edward, (son of the Hon. A. W. Holmes à Court, of Antigua, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), attached to 1st Dorset Regiment, Persian Gulf.
- Kilburn, Sergeant, (son of the late Canon Kilburn, of Kingston, Jamaica), Remount Department.
- Lawrence, Private C. M., (of Jamaica), A Company, 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Lawrence, Gunner, (of Jamaica), Royal Marines, Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Leary, 2nd Lieut. G. G. W., (son of Dr. J. G. Leary, Alfreton, Derbyshire, and late of the British Guiana Medical Service), 10th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- Legatt, Gordon Scott, (son-in-law of John Valentine Bromley, and cousin of Mr. T. DuBuisson, of Henkel, DuBuisson and Co.), 11th Division, R.F.A., Leeds.
- Legre, Beresford H., (of Jamaica), 3rd Canadian Contingent.
- Mackay, 2nd Lieut. W. E., (of the Colonial Bank, Trinidad), 4th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.
- Malone, Dr. Reginald H., (of St. Kitts), Surgeon R.A.M.C.
- Malone, Fred H., (of St. Kitts), 6th Field Ambulance Corps, Canadian Contingent.
- McArthur, Lieut. A., (late of Pln. Skeldon, Berbice, British Guiana), 15th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.
- McGill, Captain, (of St. Kitts), University Medical Corps, Canadian Contingent.
- McFarlane, Lieut. Maynard D., (son of Mr. A. J. McFarlane, Principal of the Mico College, Jamaica), The Middlesex Regiment. *At the Front.*
- McGrath, 2nd Lieut. Henry, (youngest son of the Hon. George McGrath, Custos of St. Catherine, Jamaica), 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Queen's Bays).
- McRae, Captain W. A. R., (a member of the West India Committee), 8th Royal Scots. *At the Front.*
- Miller, Lieut. T. W. D., (served in Jamaica), Royal Engineers.

Mossman, E. Leo, (son of Mr. H. L. Mossman, Agricultural Instructor, St. Catharine, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Moulton, Lieut. Jesse C. M., (son-in-law of Mr. J. A. Scott, Managing Director of Messrs. Nathan and Co., Jamaica), Army Service Corps. *At the Dardanelles.*

Moxsy, Lieut. Arthur, (son of Mr. Sidney Moxsy, of Clarendon, Jamaica), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. *At the Front.*

Muller, Major George, (son-in-law of Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., Kt.), Marine Brigade. *Fighting in Dardanelles.*

Musgrave, Major Herbert, D.S.O., (youngest son of the late Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica), The Royal Engineers.

Nicholson, Captain T. B., (Jamaica), Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General.

Pantin, 2nd Lieut. Arthur (son of Mr. C. Pantin, Assistant Auditor-General), 25th Battalion, The Northumberland Fusiliers.

Powell, Lieut., (Jamaica Scholar), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Rhodes, Colonel J. H., (of Clarendon, Jamaica), in command of the R.A.M.C., Up Park Camp, Jamaica.

Roe, Private R. K. H., (youngest son of Mr. C. H. Roe, Jamaica), 1st Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Sandison, Lieut. G. D., (late of Berbice, British Guiana), 5th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders.

Saunders, Captain H. C. R., (son of the late Dr. Arthur Saunders, of Kingston, Jamaica), East Yorkshire Regiment.

Shand, Kenrick Willoughby, (son of the late C. Arthur Shand, of Antigua, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. D. Berkeley, of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), 3rd Norfolk Regiment, Felixstowe.

Sheppard, 2nd Lieut. Charles Westcott, (son of Dr. and Mrs. Sheppard, and grandson of Sir George Chambers), Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Solomon, Corporal Gerald Stanley, (son of Mr. John Solomon, late of British Guiana Civil Service), the Mechanical Transport Corps, 1st Canadian Contingent.

Smith, W. Kenrick Maxwell, (son of Captain Maxwell Hinds-Smith, and Company Trinidad Volunteers), and Life Guards.

Smythe, Darley, (of Linstead, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Smythe, William J., (son of the late Mr. J. Smythe, Customs Officer, Black River, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Stone, 2nd Lieut. Stanley S., (son of Mr. Herbert Stone, late Protector of Immigrants, of Trinidad), 4th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

Sturridge, Dr. R., (son of Dr. P. E. Sturridge, Jamaica), Red Cross (in France).

Tarver, Brevet Lieut.-Colonel, (served in Jamaica with the A.S.C., son-in-law of the late Mr. Pison Schooles, Attorney General, Jamaica), Assistant Director of Supplies.

Watson, Lieut., (late Government Medical Officer, Grand Cayman), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Welch, Captain Frederick, (son-in-law of the late Captain J. H. Berkeley), Mahratti Regiment, Persian Gulf.

Wynn, 2nd Lieut. H. G., (son of the late Mr. W. W. Wynn, of Manchester, Jamaica), has received a Commission in Kitchener's Army.

Widd, Cyril J. B., (of Jamaica), and Canadian Contingent.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Busuttill, Frank P., Despatch Rider attached to 9th Hampshire Regiment.

Cummings, 2nd Lieut. P. H., (of "Riversdale," Tobago), has been gazetted to the 1st Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders.

French Major R. G., M.D., F.R.C.S., (of Jamaica). In charge of the Military Hospital, Rochester Row, London.

Gordon, 2nd Lieut. Archibald, 11th Service Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.

Gibbons, 2nd Lieut. John Noel, (son of Mr. John Abbel Gibbons, nephew of Mr. Kenrick Gibbons), Army Service Corps.

Gray, Lieut. Clifford B., (son of Mr. W. Bagget Gray, of Kingstou, Jamaica), 12th Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment.

Pike-Stephenson, 2nd Lieut., 4th Battalion North Stafford Regiment, now attached to the 1st Cheshire Regiment. *At the Front.*

Rhodes, Major W. W., (of St. Thomas, Jamaica), late 7th King's Royal Rifles, Assistant Provost Marshal.

### Wounded.

Collins, Lieut. H., (served in Jamaica), Army Service Corps.

Holmes à Court, William Alexander Russell, (son of the Hon. A. W. Holmes à Court, of Antigua), Princess Patricia's Light Infantry. Severely wounded and invalided home.

### Killed in Action.

CAPTAIN ABDY FELLOWES ANDERSON, who, we regret to state, was killed in action near Hill 60, Ypres, on April 23rd, was the proprietor of Harris Estate in Dominica, and a member of the West India Committee. He was the son of the late Col. J. A. Anderson and Mrs. Anderson, 19, Gloucester Square, W., and was educated at Harrow and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Passing into the 13th Hussars, in which he remained five years (1892-7), he served through the South African War, receiving the Queen's medal with two clasps. Captain Anderson was in the 3rd Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) but had been serving with the 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers since last October. He leaves a widow who is a daughter of Mr. W. Morris Fletcher, the proprietor of Salford Estate in Dominica, and two sons. During the battle in which Captain Anderson lost his life all the officers of the King's Own Scottish Borderers were killed or wounded and only 50 men answered the roll call afterwards. Captain Anderson was with his company in the first rush on the hill after the explosion, and was one of the first in the German trenches.

MAJOR FRANCIS G. RICHARDS, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who was killed in action in Flanders, was at one time in the Jamaica Medical Service.

[Copies of the last eleven WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS containing in all 924 names are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, price 1s. each, or post free 1s. 1d.]

INTEREST continues to be shown in the use of explosives for agricultural work throughout the world, and in the West Indies in particular the subject has received some attention of late. The paper recently contributed by Mr. Harry Vincent to the Agricultural Society of Trinidad, which paper was reproduced in the local press shows that the use of explosives for this purpose is no mere novelty, but a thoroughly sound commercial venture. It was announced in a recent issue that Nobel's Explosives Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, had appointed Messrs. Gordon, Grant and Company, Trinidad, as their agents in the West Indies. This firm has now a small stock of explosives suitable for agricultural work and can supply prospective users with full directions in pamphlet form.

## WEST INDIAN FRUIT FOR THE WOUNDED.

The dislocation of the mail service has somewhat hampered the arrangements for the despatch of the gifts of fruit from the West Indies for our wounded soldiers and sailors, but upwards of 2,000 packages have now been distributed. The R.M.S. *Victoria* brought 105 cases of oranges, etc., and 13 cases of preserves from the Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee, and 19 cases of limes from Dominica. We can best show how much the fruit is valued by quoting a few of the several hundreds of letters of thanks which have been received and forwarded to Trinidad and Dominica.

The Commandant of St. John V.A.D. Hospital, Leicester, writes :—

"Once more the wounded soldiers of this hospital have to thank you for another generous gift of oranges which they much enjoy. The nurses also wish to thank you for your help and kind recognition of the work which they are trying to do for the Old Country we all love so well."

The Matron of the Auxiliary Hospital at Newport, Mon., sent an acknowledgment in which she said :

"Yesterday I received a nice box of Trinidad oranges for my sick and wounded soldiers. I hope you will please thank the Trinidad planters for their kindness. They do enjoy them so much. I keep a large basket full in their dining room for those well enough to go there, and place the label from the box in front. They nearly all remark on it, 'That's nice, matron, One Heart, One Flag, One Throne!' Those in bed notice the papers they come in, and one and all are pleased and grateful."

Sister Coldhayes of the Coldhayes Relief Hospital, East Liss wrote :—

"We are beginning to feel that the planters of Trinidad are real friends, and want to know them; at least, those far off islands are beginning to have very pleasant associations for us. The wounded soldiers enjoy their food so much when in hospital, as however well supplied when in the fighting line, variety, and particularly fruit, is out of reach."

One acknowledgment from the Matron of the Red Cross Hospital at Lindfield, was as follows :—

"We wish to thank you very much for sending another box of oranges. We shall be much obliged if you will convey our thanks to the Trinidad planters. The gift is most acceptable and is gratefully acknowledged by the undersigned."

Florence M. A. Hopper, Matron.	G. Williams.
Corporal B. Farrow.	Private G. Standing.
Private R. Watts.	Trooper Prior.
Private E. Wright.	W. Hoskin.
Private A. H. Strongert.	Private A. F. Smith.
G. G. Jupp.	Michel Je Mulder.
J. R. Richardson.	Eugene Mattan.
A. Rands.	R. M. Vician.
A. Gillau.	A. Louesdaf.
R. Groves.	John Brown.
	Henri Van Lare.

An acknowledgment from Red Cross Hospital, Fishmongers' Hall, London, ran :—

"We were so delighted to receive the limes which you have so kindly sent for our patients. They do come in so nicely in so many ways, and we do think it is so very kind of the planters in Dominica to think of us here. I do think

they would be very pleased if they could see how much their gifts and kind thoughts are appreciated."

The Matron of the Hornsey Cottage Hospital wrote :—

"Please convey my most sincere thanks to the planters of Dominica for the box of limes received to-day. The limes are always appreciated by the patients very much."

The Secretary of the Great Northern Central Hospital, London, was equally appreciative, writing :—

"On behalf of the Committee will you please accept and convey to the Dominica planters an expression of sincere thanks for this acceptable gift."

An acknowledgement from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, runs as follows :—

"Would you be good enough to convey our very hearty thanks to the planters of Dominica for their generous gift. The fruit has arrived in good condition, and will be greatly enjoyed by the sick and wounded soldiers in this hospital."

From St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, we received the following :—

"May I ask you to kindly convey to the Dominica planters the thanks of the Governors for their useful gift which is much appreciated by the sick and wounded soldiers in this Hospital."

From the Berkshire Hospital at Reading, the Secretary writes :—

"I should be much obliged if when the opportunity occurs, you would convey to the planters in Dominica an expression of our sincere thanks for their useful and acceptable present, and for their kindly thought for our wounded, who greatly appreciate the gift."

The Cantley Sugar Factory in Norfolk still hangs like a mill-stone round the neck of the English sugar beet industry. The Report of the Anglo-Netherlands Sugar Corporation, Ltd., which owns the factory, as well as properties in Holland, shows a debit on the Profit and Loss Account of £98,644, and Mr. Sillem, presiding at the Annual General Meeting on April 29th, said that the loss on manufacturing account in England for 1914 was £13,140. He added that the Company did not obtain sufficient beets in the autumns of 1913 and 1914 to make it possible to work at a profit, and that it would not be surprising if the crop next autumn fell short of the requirements. He further stated that £38,047 had been written off as provision in connection with an amount that had been expected from the Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd., a company formed as a result of Departmental recommendations in order that they might benefit from any grants which might be distributed in such cases as their's by the Development Commission. Instead of getting £50,000 as they had hoped, they only received £12,000. In this connection it will be remembered that a grant of £11,000 to the Sugar Beet Growers' Society by the Development Commission was adversely criticised at the time, it being considered that this was only a roundabout way of giving a bounty to the Cantley Sugar Factory, which the Government were precluded from giving directly in consequence of the Brussels Convention.

**AT WESTMINSTER.**

**The Royal Sugar Commission.**

In a written reply to Mr. Houston, on April 21st, Mr. McKenna stated that no member of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply received any remuneration. Mr. J. J. Ronge was employed by the Commission in the capacity of manager. The whole of the staff of the Commission had been engaged in the usual way, on salaries approved by the Treasury. The Commission would in due course make a full Report of its proceedings. It would be quite impossible for the Commission, with the staff at its disposal, to prepare elaborate interim returns such as the hon. Member asked for, without serious interruption and prejudice to the business which it had to conduct.

In reply to Mr. Houston on April 29th, Mr. McKenna said that he did not think it would be in the public interest to say whether the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply had ceased purchasing sugar and what the total quantity of sugar in the United Kingdom at present was. Replying to Mr. Hogge, he said that the price of sugar was no greater in this country than in any other country of the world. Replying to Mr. Lough, who asked when the Right Honourable gentleman would furnish the report which he had so often promised to the House, Mr. McKenna said that he was entirely in the hands of the House as to when a debate would take place.

**Rum for the Navy and Army.**

In the House of Commons on April 20th Mr. Molteno asked whether, in view of the general consensus of opinion in regard to the desirability of restricting the use of alcohol, and particularly of ardent spirits, the Secretary of State for War would consider the desirability of ceasing to issue rum in large quantities to the troops at the front.

Mr. Tennant: The conditions under which rum is issued to the troops at the front have been fully explained on previous occasions. It is not proposed to make any change in the issue.

Mr. Molteno then asked whether it was not somewhat inconsistent to issue rum to the troops, a matter entirely under the control of the Secretary of State for War, when the question of total prohibition of the use of ardent spirits was being very generally discussed with Ministers.

Mr. Tennant replied that he was interested to learn that piece of information, but he would say that the troops were serving under totally different conditions.

In a written reply to Mr. Hogge, M.P., Dr. Macnamara stated the figures for the year 1914 were not complete, but during the year ending 1st July, 1914, the quantity of rum issued in the Navy was 421,230 gallons. The average age of the rum on issue is, so far as can be calculated, about eighteen months.

In reply to Mr. James Mason, who asked the Under-Secretary for War whether the men of the Expeditionary Force were receiving the same rum ration as before; and, if not, what the reason was for the change, Mr. Tennant referred the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Dumfriesshire.

[On November 16th, Mr. Tennant informed the House that the instructions provided that the rum ration was issued only on the recommendation of the medical authorities, and that the unit was asked the number of officers, non-commissioned officers and men who desired such a ration. See the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of December 1st, last, page 567.

Replying to Mr. Chancellor on March 8th, Mr. Baker

said that the quantity of rum sent overseas was 509,079 gallons. The purchases were made through the Government Brokers.]

**British Beet Sugar.**

On April 27th, Mr. Anderson asked whether, in view of the advances in the price of sugar, equal to 100 per cent., the Government were taking steps to cultivate and develop the production of British-grown sugar beet; and whether it was proposed to erect beet factories in selected districts and to establish co-operation between the State and growers.

Sir Harry Verney: The present price of sugar is abnormal, and, presumably, temporary. I am not at present prepared to say whether, in the cultivation of beet or in the subsequent stages of sugar production, we could compete successfully in normal times with Continental countries, where there is an abundant supply of very cheap labour available, and in any case we could not hope to produce here more than a small proportion of our requirements of sugar. It is an intricate economic problem, upon which the Board await a report from Mr. C. S. Orwin, of the Oxford Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics.

**The Proceeds of the Sugar Tax.**

In reply to Mr. Ginnell on April 27th, Mr. Acland said that the proceeds of the sugar tax from 1901-2 to 1913-14 had been as under:—

Year	Proceeds (£)
1901-2	6,464,000
1902-3	4,567,000
1903-4	5,809,000
1904-5	6,204,000
1905-6	6,281,000
1906-7	6,368,000
1907-8	6,842,000
1908-9*	3,237,000
1909-10	3,024,000
1910-11	3,026,000
1911-12	3,127,000
1912-13	3,109,000
1913-14	3,129,000

\* Rate of duty reduced in 1908.

**OUR LIBRARY.**

The Editor is glad to receive copies of publications relating to the colonies, photographs of West Indian scenery, or of local events of topical interest, and donations towards the Library Fund, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

**The South American Year Book and Directory (1915).** Containing General Information relating to the Ten Republics of South America, British, Dutch and French Guiana, the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands and Trinidad. London, The Louis Cassier Company, Ltd. We are pleased to recognise a marked improvement in the pages devoted to British Guiana and Trinidad in this useful volume. In last year's issue they were far from adequate—as we ventured to point out to the compiler. Her proximity to Venezuela and her transhipment trade with that country justifies the inclusion of Trinidad in a South American year book; but the inclusion of British Guiana calls, of course, for no such justification, and the space devoted to our great mainland colony is naturally larger than that afforded to its island neighbour. On turning over the pages of this book one cannot help moralising over the deplorable lack of development of our only colony in South America, of which it bears evidence. Nor can one avoid comparing British Guiana with the neighbouring republics—from the point of view of prosperity—to the detriment of the former. " 'Tis true, 'tis pity; but pity 'tis 'tis true."

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

FOR the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1914, the quantity of the exports of the salt-cod fish from Canada to the West Indies amounted to 15,159,400 lbs. and of smoked herrings to 1,040,401 lbs.

SECOND Lieut. G. G. W. Leary, son of Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Leary, late of Demerara, was married recently to Edythe, daughter of the late Mr. William Balls, of Tynemouth, and of Mrs. Balls.

IN reference to the paragraph in last CIRCULAR on temperance drink-substitutes, a genial correspondent writes endorsing the advocacy of a mixture of milk and cane sugar as an excellent and palatable pick-me-up; but he silyly adds that "it is vastly improved by the addition of a dash of old rum—another product of the sugar cane!"

MR. GUY C. WYATT, formerly of Demerara is doing some useful spade work for the cause of the British cane sugar industry. He is a staunch advocate of British sugar, and has published in a series of leaflets his arguments and those of others in favour of it. He has circularised the members of Parliament, and loses no opportunity of ventilating the subject.

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON, writing in the *Contemporary Review*, on "Alcohol and the Empire," deals with the effect of alcohol on backward and subject races. He makes special reference to the hinterland of British Guiana, declaring "We are literally exterminating by alcohol—or allowing them to be exterminated by not intervening—the few thousands of interesting Amerindian aborigines."

DURING the first two months of the present year the output of cacao from the Gold Coast was 56,116,240 lbs. valued at £861,276. The total exports of Gold Coast cacao in 1914 were no fewer than 118,256,320 lbs., or nearly double the production of Trinidad. The quality of the cacao continues to improve, thanks to the efforts of the Agricultural Department, of which Mr. W. S. D. Tudhope is Director.

THE readiness of the British people to respond to all appeals at this time has been exemplified afresh in the case of Belgium. The population of that country is dependent on foreign philanthropy for escape from starvation. The Americans have done magnificent relief work, but much remains to be achieved. King George, having headed a British subscription list with a gift of £500, the appeal brought in £60,000 on the first day.

ALL political parties are mourning the death at the front of Mr. W. G. C. Gladstone, M.P., the grand-

son of the great statesman. Mr. Gladstone, who was only 30 years of age, had given evidence of remarkable powers, and there had been anticipated for him a career in keeping with the traditions of the Gladstone family. In this connection we may recall that the father of the famous Prime Minister was an estates proprietor in British Guiana.

RAW cotton has been added to the list of articles the exportation of which to all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Sea other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Spain and Portugal, was prohibited by Order in Council dated April 26th. In this connection it is worthy of note that the planes or wings of aeroplanes are made of fine cotton, spun from Sea Island cotton, the best quality of which is produced in the British West Indies.

A sign of the times as regards the West Indian sugar industry is seen in the decision of Mr. A. McConnell, of Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., to improve the crushing plant of the "Rose Hall" Factory in Berbice, British Guiana, by the erection of a 6-roller plant to take the place of one of the existing 3-roller mills. This new installation will bring the plant up to an 11-roller standard. The mill, which will be constructed by Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., of Derby, will be driven by a 28 in. by 48 in. engine, and will have solid steel gearing and 32 in. by 72 in. rolls.

ON behalf of the American Museum of Natural History to the West Indies, Dr. E. O. Hovey, has resumed the volcanological investigations that he began there after the eruptions of Mont Pelé and the Soufrière in 1902. He expects to spend about three months among the islands during which he will visit the boiling lake of Dominica as well as Pelé and the Soufrières in Guadeloupe and St. Vincent, and probably St. Lucia. He proposes to collect gases from the fumaroles, to make temperature observations, and to note the changes that have occurred since his last visit.

THE Report of Mr. T. I. Potter, the Registrar General of Trinidad, on the vital statistics of that colony for the years 1913-14, shows that the total increase of population during the year was 6,748, 3,702 of which was due to excess of births over deaths, 373 to excess of East Indian arrivals over departures, and 2,673, to excess of general immigration over emigration. This brings the population of the Colony on the 1st April, 1914 to 352,145. On that date the general population was 233,323, and the East Indian population 118,822. It is interesting to note that 80 per cent. of the deaths from diseases of the digestive system were due to diarrhoea, enteritis, and ankylostomiasis.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

WITH the re-assembling of Parliament the London Season would in normal conditions have begun in earnest, but though the metropolis is filling up there will, this year, be few of the usual festivities associated with May and June. The Derby will be run as usual, but Ascot will be shorn of the Royal Procession. There will be no dances, and Henley Regatta and the Eton and Harrow match, the climacteric of the Season, will be abandoned altogether.

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OWING to the higher passage rates and to the natural desire of most people to be either at home—using that word in its strictest sense—or at the front, at this critical time, no considerable influx of visitors from overseas is to be expected. The Royal Mail Company, however, advertise their usual summer tour from the West Indies at a slightly increased rate, and, no doubt, many residents in the West Indies will avail themselves of the opportunity to “cool-out.”

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AMONG the worst sufferers from the war conditions now prevailing, are the London Clubs. Apart from so many of their members being abroad serving their country, they have to face a reduced list of candidates awaiting election, an increase in the cost of food and a marked falling off in the consumption of wines and spirits, to which the Committees usually look for their coffee room profit. In several Clubs an emergency War surtax of 1d. or 2d. on every 1s. in members' bills is being imposed. The restaurants are also “feeling the draught.” Supper after the theatre is no longer as popular as it was, and in many restaurants the *prix fixe* system has been substituted for the *à la carte*.

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The country has been enjoying a spell of perfect spring weather. The parks are already quite green and the ornamental borders are ablaze with spring flowers. But our open spaces, like everything else, are suffering from the war. The grass between Hyde Park Corner and the Marble Arch has been worn almost bare by the marchings and counter-marchings of the noble army of volunteers called the National Guard, while the site of the Exhibition of 1851 opposite Knightsbridge Barracks is almost bare of turf for a similar reason. Alongside the old Mall—now the Processional Road—several acres of St. James's Park are covered with temporary buildings which have been run up in an incredibly short space of time to house some hundreds of Admiralty and War Office clerks.

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THE greatest credit is due to Mr. Howard Ruff, Secretary and Founder of the Royal Society of St. George. It is largely due to his efforts and to those

of his Society that St. George's Day is now more generally recognised in England. This year the dinner with the picturesque ceremony of bringing in the Baron of Beef was abandoned in favour of a patriotic meeting at the Mansion House. In the morning the annual service of the Order of St. Michael and St. George was held in St. Paul's Cathedral. During it the banner of a deceased Knight Grand Cross was removed and Bishop Montgomery recited the services of the late members of the Order, among whom was included Sir Nevile Lubbock. The chapel, which is at the west end of the south aisle of the Cathedral, has been greatly embellished since last year, and the new decorations were greatly admired. It would be appropriate, and would be greatly appreciated by Englishmen throughout the Empire, if Mr. Howard Ruff were to be admitted to the Order identified with England's Patron Saint.

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THE fortnight has witnessed several marriages of West Indian interest. On April 17th Mr. H. C. Layton was married to the youngest daughter of Mr. William Henry Sherlock, of Westview, Caterham Valley. On the 20th Anne Dodds (Nance), the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker, of 1, Alfred Terrace, Glasgow, was married to Jean Pierre, only son of Major-General Comut Saint Amour de Chanaz, of Turin. On the 21st the only daughter of Sir John and Lady Edwards-Moss of Ruby Hall, Torquay, was married to Mr. A. R. M. Camm. The name of the Rev. John Rannie, of Demerara, was recalled by the marriage at St. Peter's of his youngest daughter, Mary Donald, to Lieut. Benjamin James Alcock, M.D., Royal Army Medical Corps.

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MARKED success has attended the movement for providing recruiting bands. The sound of martial music in our streets is indeed a stimulus to the entire population. Our readers in British Guiana will note with interest that the Hon. Secretary of the Recruiting Bands campaign is Lady Ashmore. The name of her husband, the late Sir Alexander Ashmore, is remembered in Demerara as that of one of the ablest Government Secretaries who ever served “the Magnificent Province.”

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HIS old friends in Georgetown will welcome the news of the promotion of Colonel Stephen Lushington. Always genial and accessible Col. Lushington was highly popular during his period of office as Inspector-General in British Guiana. Called upon to suppress the serious riot of eight or nine years ago, Col. Lushington's conduct won him the C.M.G. He has now been gazetted a Brigadier-General in the Royal Artillery. In view of the supreme importance attached to the services of the artillery in the present war one may expect still further honours for Col. Lushington.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

WRITING on the subject of Robusta coffee (*Coffea Canephora*) in the *Philippine Agricultural Review*, Mr. P. J. Wester strongly recommends the growing of this variety of coffee in altitudes of under 1,200 feet. It is much superior to Arabian coffee in its yield, it is an early as well as a prolific bearer, and is more resistant to blight. Although the flavour of Robusta coffee is stated to be inferior to that of the Arabian variety, Mr. Wester considers that this alleged defect is not sufficient to counterbalance its general advantages.

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Messrs. Jacobs, Leclerc and Mason have been making some interesting observations on the wrapping of bread and its bacterial contents. It was found that bread which had only been cooled for one hour before being wrapped retained sufficient heat to favour the growth of organisms, especially if the paper was waxed, and it was concluded that bread should not be wrapped before three hours had elapsed after removal from the oven. As regards the general effect of wrapping bread, it was found that 62 per cent. of unwrapped bread showed the presence of organisms of the *B. coli* type as compared with 7 per cent. in the case of the wrapped bread.

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In a recent number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, V. K. Charles and A. E. Jenkins draw attention to a fungous disease which had attacked the *Cannabis sativa* variety of hemp. The disease only made its appearance when the plants were almost full grown, but was very rapid in its action, death taking place in a fortnight after the first appearance of the disease. The early symptom was the wilting and drooping of the leaves, the whole of the plant becoming subsequently implicated. From the relation of the fungus to the genus *Botryosphaeria*, and as the imperfect stages coincide with *Dendrophoma marconii*, it is proposed to retain the specific name and designate the fungus *Botryosphaeria marconii*.

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THE *Indian Trade Journal* gives some particulars as to the use of the water of the coco-nut as a coagulant for rubber latex. The water from coco-nuts broken for copra is collected and left for four days, during which active fermentation takes place, and the liquid becomes markedly acid. The liquid is used on the fourth or fifth day. Complete coagulation of latex is effected by the addition of two ounces of the liquid to a pint of latex. Better results, however, are said to be obtained by the dry distillation of coco-nut shells, which yield a crude acid of 10 to 12 per cent. strength. This when diluted to 1 in 10 per cent. with water can be used for producing excellent smoked rubber at a cost for the acid of .08 cent per lb. rubber, as against .39 to .5 cents when pure acid is employed.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Oriana* arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, May 2nd, with the homeward mail from the West Indies. The letters were delivered in London on the following morning. We give below extracts from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents received by this and occasional opportunities during the past fortnight.

## ANTIGUA—Lack of Freight Accommodation.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, APRIL 2nd.—The weather is again very dry; some few estates have enjoyed fine showers, but the island generally needs rain badly. A very serious position has arisen here through the difficulty in obtaining freight for our sugars in the R.M.S.P. Company's Canadian steamers, which have been filling up at southern ports and leaving no room for produce from the smaller islands. At the last moment we were notified that a very small tonnage could be accepted by the steamer of April 10th, none by that of April 24th, and only small lots in succeeding steamers. We shall, therefore, be unable to ship half the sugar which we should have got rid of by June. This means that muscovado would have to be stored for a considerable time and would deteriorate; besides, the storing capacity of the estates is very limited. Again money will not be available for carrying on the estates owing to the non-shipments of the sugar and the consequent inability of the planters to draw against it. A deputation has waited on His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell to place the facts before him, and representations will be made to Canada on the subject. Although we do not contribute towards the subsidy and we appreciate the difficulties in the shipping world, yet we consider that we should certainly receive some consideration and get a proportional amount of tonnage compared with the larger islands. We have had a visit from an Australian man of war, and the opportunity was taken to give alarm to the Defence Force, whose members showed great activity. The Onion Growers' Association have made large shipments of onions, besides tomatoes, pumpkins, egg-fruit, and cabbages to New York, and it seems likely that the kitchen garden business may develop very considerably. Mr. J. McLaren Jones has retired from the position of manager of the Colonial Bank.

## BARBADOS—Disadvantages of the Windmill.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., APRIL 20th.—Reaping is being carried on under difficulties, at least, so far as windmills are concerned as there has not been a decently windy day for the season. Steam engines have not this drawback and are getting on fairly rapidly, but the quality of the juice leaves much to be desired. Factories have more than they can get through for several reasons, one being the want of wind, another the low price of syrup as compared with sugar, and the very small demand for 98° muscovado sugar.

## BRITISH GUIANA The Export Tax on Sugar.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, APRIL 3rd.—The Elective Members took a very strong stand against the suggestion of the Government that both first and second sugars and also rum should be taxed, and the proposals were defeated. On the following day the Court agreed that a tax of 85 cents per ton should be imposed on first sugars only. The weather has continued dry and good rains are wanted generally.

APRIL 17th.—Good rains are reported, with subsequent light showers. The Committee of the Cane Farming Association has met the Secretary of the Local Government Board and some of the Beterverwagting and Ruxton cane

farmers on the 6th inst. Beterverwagting farmers had agreed to adopt the polarisation test as a basis for their cane selling after having had a practical test at "La Bonne Intention." The Buxton farmers, however, wanted the canes to be bought by weight, as heretofore, and the Local Government Board are to send in their reasons for objecting to the polarisation test. The Spring meeting of the Red Air Park Club had been successfully held. The municipality of Georgetown had approved of the Government proposal to put down a number of Artesian wells for the purpose of providing a pure water supply for that city. At a meeting of the Combined Court, the Governor stated that the estimated deficit in the Colony's accounts would be \$250,174. Towards meeting this it was proposed to raise the excise duty on matches 10 per cent., and to place a specific export duty on sugar and rum; viz., \$1.40 per ton for white and yellow crystals, 96 cents on refinery crystals, and 81 cents on molasses sugars. This was objected to by the elective members, and an amendment was introduced and carried by which an export tax of 80 cents. was fixed for all classes of sugars.

#### DOMINICA—Enjoys 1d. Postage to America.

MR. E. A. AGAR, APRIL 16th.—Owing to the general drought the West Indies had largely lost their beauty as I saw the islands on my way back from Barbados last week. Dominica was brown high up the hills, and I find that rainfall records up to date from January show for my place a shortage unprecedented since I have been in the island. This has affected the crop somewhat in some parts and will bring it in late, but will almost certainly ensure a good second crop of limes, and in the meantime the water has been got out of the surface soil and allowed it to be well aerated. But for the past week rain has fallen, and a couple of nights ago we had an early and fairly severe thunderstorm. The Royal Bank of Canada has now opened a branch here, which will doubtless lead to greater banking facilities all round. The Colonial Bank is already advertising its new Savings Bank Department, whose deposits of one dollar and upwards will be received and 3 per cent. interest paid on minimum monthly balances. The introduction of penny postage to the United States is a great move forward. This regulation came into force on the first of this month. Mr. Mahaffy, the new Administrator, with his family, arrived here by the last mail, on the 9th. The landing jetty was decorated in his honour, and he was met by persons of importance. However, he had only time to go to the Court House to take his oaths, as he had to go on to Antigua for a meeting of the Federal Council. He is expected back to-morrow.

#### ST. KITTS—A Curious Case of Fish Poisoning.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, APRIL 1st.—I have been much pained to hear this morning of the very sudden death of Mr. E. D. Dobridge, of Buckley's Estates, one of our oldest and most successful planters. The resolution of the West India Committee on the subject of the desirability of developing the British sugar industry has met with warm support in St. Kitts. In order to promote a future supply of sugar within the Empire, the protection of both home-grown and Colonial sugars one would think should become a matter of vital importance to the Government, and that the question of the equitable treatment of sugar-manufactured articles exported from the United Kingdom to the Colonies is a matter that should not present insurmountable difficulties of settlement between the Powers concerned—Germany and Austria being out of it. One hears on all sides complaints of poor weights of cane and short yields of sugar this campaign, and it is plain that but for good prices ruling we should all be in desperate straits this year,

owing to an abnormally short crop. March has gone out very dry, and the island needs rain badly. There was a very serious case of fish poisoning some days ago. A large barracouta was brought in and sold on the Bay front, and within a few hours over a score of people were in a desperate state. Six persons died, and Dr. Shannon was in a very serious condition for some days, but is now himself again, I am glad to say. I regret to say that Mr. G. E. Duncan has been suffering for some time from blood poisoning, and he has been obliged to leave for New York, where it is hoped he will find relief and a cure. I regret to report the death from pneumonia on the 30th ult., of Mr. Richard Cable, editor of the late *St. Christopher Advertiser* and the *Daily Express*. Mr. Cable had been ailing for some time, and the war had added to the uphill difficulties and losses which most West Indian editors have to contend with. I believe that to the Cable family belongs the credit of publishing the first West Indian newspaper. In his day Mr. Cable wrote lucidly and well. He was a keen critic of Crown Colony Government, and no one regretted more than he the almost total extinction of a healthy public opinion. I am afraid his decease may be the end of a little island paper which has a long and honourable career to its credit.

APRIL 14th.—We have had a welcome change in the weather, the entire island benefiting from heavy rains, the latter part of last week. The north side and Sandy Point averaging over six inches to the 11th inst., and the Basseterre District 3½ to 4 inches. The ravines came down heavily making travelling difficult, the roads in several places being blocked with heavy deposits of sand and stones, giving employment to the Public Works Department. Shippers of muscovado sugar having been informed by the Agent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company that he is unable to accept any cargo for Canada until May, and only a limited quantity then, are much inconvenienced thereby, the local market being overstocked, and efforts are being made in other directions to get away the produce. Our weakness for the Royal Mail Company is certainly repaid by more "kicks than halfpence." At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 13th inst. an interesting pamphlet from Dr. Waits advocating the planting of the Lima bean for commercial purposes in these islands was introduced; and it is worthy of serious attention. Sympathetic reference was made to the sad death of Mr. E. D. Dobridge of Buckley's Estate, who was the first president of the Society in 1905 and 1906, and a very keen and successful planter; and a vote of sympathy was passed to his bereaved widow and family.

I am glad to say we have not long been without a daily paper. The *St. Kitts-Nevis Daily Bulletin* making its debut on the 10th inst. It is a well printed production on good paper, and I hope a long and successful existence lies before it. The writer attended a very successful meeting of the Mutual Improvement Society on the evening of the 13th inst., and amongst other items much enjoyed the orchestral selections which were excellently rendered. The Society is a very worthy one, and to be congratulated upon entering on its fourteenth year.

I have omitted to mention previously that on the initiation of Mrs. W. H. Fretz, a ladies' working party has been instrumental in sending several parcels of warm clothing to the Red Cross Society. Our worthy Senior Medical Officer's family is taking its full share in the present struggle for the future of the Empire. Dr. Henry Fretz being a naval surgeon, and Mr. Wilmot Fretz on active service in Rhodesia, with Dr. "Lennie" Fretz in the Army Medical Corps in India. Their many friends in St. Kitts sincerely hope they will all "come through" safely.



**ST. LUCIA—A Visit from Sir George Haddon-Smith.**

HON. G. S. HUDSON, APRIL 16th.—Following a month of record dryness in March, April appears to be trying to achieve a record in the opposite direction. On the night of the 14th inst. rain fell to the extent of 7½ inches on some estates on the Windward coast. The sugar planters, who previously had complained of poor juice yields will not appreciate this weather, but owing to the dry state of the soil, floods do not appear to have done damage, and it has had the effect of forcing cacao flowers out a fortnight earlier than usual, and should also do good to lime plantations. His Excellency Sir George Basil Haddon-Smith, Governor in Chief, arrived here for about a month's stay on the 9th inst., inspected the "Army," received a salute of 17 guns, and delivered an inaugural address at the Court House, in which he laid special stress on the necessity of reducing the cost of our official staff to meet our straitened means. The burning question of the moment, however, is taxation, but I understand this is to be deferred until our new Administrator's arrival, who is now stated to be due here on May 10th. His Honour Chief Justice Collier made his usual humorous speech in welcoming the Governor, but the safety of the British Empire does not permit of my reporting it. On the 14th inst. His Excellency and Lady Haddon-Smith were At Home at Government House, where there was a large gathering although unfortunately it was a wet day; it is not difficult to predict that our new Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith will be as popular here as they already are in Grenada.

**ST. VINCENT—The Fate of the "Karlsruhe."**

MR. W. N. SANDS, APRIL 3rd.—The weather continues very dry and we are experiencing one of the "old time" dry seasons. Owing to the war it appears difficult to get cargo steamers to come here for produce and our cotton and arrowroot have to be held. Dr. E. O. Hovey, of the American Museum of Natural History, is paying another visit to the Soufrière, and has pitched his tent on the top of the mountain. As he is making a close study of the volcano his report should be of much interest.

APRIL 17th.—From an agricultural standpoint the most important news of the past fortnight was that a telegram had been received from the British Cotton Growing Association through the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture stating that the Chairman of the Association had come to an arrangement with the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association whereby the latter guaranteed a minimum price of eighteen pence per lb., for the best quality ordinary St. Vincent Sea Island cotton, and higher prices for the superfine grades of the 1915-16 crop. Under these circumstances local planters are advised not to curtail plantings. The announcement has had a satisfactory reception, but, of course, it does not affect, unfortunately, the position of the present crop, all of which is unsold.

Now that the news of the sinking of the German warship *Karlsruhe* has been published it may be stated that many pieces of wreckage came ashore, both here and in the Grenadines, during November last. The wreckage which was all woodwork had evidently been brought in to shore by the ocean currents from some distance. At first it was thought by some people, owing to the frequency of the occurrence of the name *Karlsruhe*, that it was a case of "bluffing" on the part of the wily Germans, but, of course, we are delighted to hear that the evidence available points to the fact that the warship was destroyed by an internal explosion at sea.

We have had fine rains during the past few days, and everything looks nice and green again and many planters have started ploughing, hoeing and cleaning up their lands

for the planting of their various crops. The new cotton seed oil mill at the Government ginney is now going strong, which marks another progressive effort on the part of the Government. The members of the Kingstown Club and other friends in the Colony of the late Hon. J. G. W. Hazell have decided to erect, with the permission of the Government, a memorial drinking fountain in the Botanic Gardens. This will take the form of a Grecian temple with the basin underneath in the form of the flower of the yellow *Allamanda*. His Honour the Administrator and the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray are responsible for the design, of what will prove to be a very attractive and useful memorial to a much esteemed public man.

**TOBAGO—The Cacao Crop Drawing to a Close.**

MR. ROBERT S. REID, April 1st, (received April 23rd).—However much patriotic patience we may have, the erratic mail service is very disconcerting. March has been rainless and windy. On 1st March we had .02 rain and on 14th/15th .12, in all .14 for the month, and not a drop since, while winds have been blowing from all points of the compass. For the first time in my nine years' experience the roads in this district are inches deep in dust, while the fields and hillsides are brown and burnt like tinder. The June cacao crop is past praying for, the flowers and chereros being all scorched, and young trees in exposed places are having a bad time. On some estates a really good cacao picking is now being gathered, but this month will see the last of the crop almost all over the island. In spite of the drought coco-nuts have yielded large crops so far this year, but both kernels and husks are smaller than usual. Cacao prices are very good and both coco-nuts and copra are steadily improving, while sugar is at war prices and my labourers are at last bestirring themselves to plant some canes for private consumption. Let us hope that this terrible war may end long before these canes are ripe. During the fortnight the Anglican Bishop has been on his annual visit to the island. Besides holding Confirmation Services at various places, the Bishop consecrated the little church on the hillside at Charlotteville, Man-o'-War Bay. By the same steamer Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery Gordon travelled round the island. Great sympathy is expressed to these friends, one of their sons having recently been killed on the battlefield.

APRIL 17th.—There has been a most welcome rainfall since April 11th, six inches having fallen in the Windward District. It was a steady downpour, and the earth absorbed almost every drop of it. The burnt up hillsides are now green and growth is amazing. This is the true springtime in Tobago, and if the rains are continued, fine crops may be expected in the autumn. Cacao pickings still continue and are more productive than most people anticipated.

**TRINIDAD—A Plea for a Preference for British Sugar.**

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, April 1st (received April 23rd).—With regard to the regrettable incident in the Legislative Council referred to in my last, the Surgeon-General, at a further meeting, held on 26th March, in a "personal explanation," again drew attention to the matter in a very dignified and convincing speech, and had the satisfaction of receiving from the Governor a confirmation of the correctness of the statement in respect of which he had been charged with misrepresentation. To its credit be it said, the *Port of Spain Gazette* has made the *amende honorable* in an article printed this morning, and Dr. Clare may be satisfied with the assurance that the public, although opposed to him in many instances, is in hearty sympathy with him on this occasion when his personal honour has been so wrongfully attacked.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held yester-

day several important matters were considered. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company came in for some very direct and pointed criticism, to which the popular local attorney, Mr. Skinner, made more or less effective reply. In the result, although there was much soreness at the inconvenience recently experienced, the general feeling remained as first expressed, viz., that in the circumstances extreme protests would be out of place, even if justifiable, and the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That this Chamber, whilst fully recognising the difficulties against which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have to contend owing to war conditions, and that consequently special consideration should now be made with regard to present deficiencies in the Ocean Mail Service, would point out that Trinidad, which pays by far the largest proportion of the subsidy contributed by the British West Indies is placed by the existing itinerary in the most unfavourable position of all the contracting colonies, and is of opinion that representation to that effect should be made to the Imperial Government through His Excellency, the Governor."

At the same meeting a report of a Joint Committee of the Chamber and the Agricultural Society on the subject of preference for colonial sugar equal to that given to British beet was adopted. The Committee welcomed the proposal to accord preference to beet grown in England on the ground that it was "a frank and important admission of the principle that the foreigner is no longer to be encouraged at the expense of the home producer—a principle, the extension of which to the cane sugar colonies of the Empire can hardly now be consistently denied." This report, after adoption also by the Agricultural Society, will be forwarded for the information of the Secretary of State. The 16 Dutch Standard question also came up, and its effect on the sugar industry was demonstrated, but before taking further action it was decided to wait an answer from the Canadian Ministry of Trade and Commerce, who had, at the request of the Chamber, been addressed on the subject by the Commercial Agent for the Dominion in the Colony.

It is understood that the preliminary payments into the Treasury made by the estates of the late Hon. E. Cipriani and J. J. Ribeiro, total £15,000 and £30,000 respectively, but it is feared that a considerable hole will be made in these much wanted windfalls by the claims in connection with the recent fatal railway accident.

Cacao has been coming in freely all the month, and obtaining good, if fluctuating prices. Strangely enough the telegraphed rise in London from 92s. to 96s. announced yesterday had absolutely no effect on local rates, which weakened rather than otherwise, and closed at from 17c. to 17½c.

There has been little difficulty with regard to shipments for New York, but tonnage for the United Kingdom is much wanted. Many thousands of bags of sugar and cacao wait shipment in the warehouses, with no immediate prospect of being removed. The weather has again been exceptionally dry, and rain is urgently wanted throughout the country.

APRIL 19th.—The White Star S.S. *Kronland*, the first big boat to pass the Panama Canal, has called here with about 300 tourists. They were mostly business men, and a deputation of the Chamber of Commerce, including the writer, went on board, and accompanied the visitors to the Fitch Lake and back. The Trinidad Breeders' Association held a successful Gymkhana on the Savannah on Easter Monday, open to all comers in aid of the Blue Cross Fund. Some novelties in the shape of motor car and motor cycle races were held. Another novel event, keenly contested, was a "Chariot Race," the chariots being the local open carts in which the men stand up and drive with great skill. The newly enrolled mounted infantry were largely

in evidence and displayed skill quite unexpected, after so short a term of training, in the equestrian competitions. The Governor was present, and distributed the prizes.

The Mayor has announced the impending settlement of the long standing differences between the Government and the Borough Council of San Fernando on the water question, to the satisfaction of the latter.

Barbados and the Leeward Islands have arranged penny postage with the United States. Trinidad, "the prosperous and progressive," as we are so fond of calling ourselves, has still to pay 2½d. for each letter. The Chamber of Commerce has taken the matter up. A committee, composed of the General Manager of the Railway, the Attorney General, and Major A. S. Bowen, has been appointed to go into the claims of persons injured by the recent railway accident.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during March were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	832,260
B. N. America	189,700
France	961,300
United States of America	6,470,269
Total for March	8,453,530
Shipped previously	15,871,414
Total from 1st January	24,324,943

To same date, 1914	29,743,676
" " 1913	20,018,604
" " 1912	24,410,396
" " 1911	17,364,848
" " 1910	21,379,588
" " 1909	21,473,378
" " 1908	19,969,706

#### An Olde English Fayre in Trinidad.

One of the most successful functions ever held in the island was "Ye Olde English Fayre," which took place at San Fernando on 10th inst. in aid of Lady Lansdowne's Fund for the relief of destitute families of British officers. The ladies of Naparima spared neither time, energy or money; a strong men's committee gave willing help, the Mayor, the Hon. J. D. Hobson, lent Mon Nio, his beautifully situated house and extensive grounds. Port of Spain came down by special train and motor car, and the weather was auspicious. Our forebears must have had a merrier time if the original fayre bore faithful resemblance to its modern counterpart. There were maids of honour and flower girls, villagers and fortune tellers, cake, candy and competition booths, shooting galleries, and cool drinks, and a wonderful Olde Curiosity Shop, designed and erected by clever ladies assisted by some strong and willing youths, which looked as if it had walked straight out of the pages of Dickens. In this structure were displayed the presents sent by ladies from all parts of the colony in aid of the Fund. These alone realised \$500 in a prize drawing. Upstairs, for it was quite substantial, one could have tea or your fortune told, or play auction bridge as the humour took you. Then there was a quaint Wedding Party, performed by a large number of children in old English costumes, excellently well done, with Sir Roger de Coverley, and a Maypole dance to follow. At 7.30 we all sat down to a supper which would have done credit to many a well-known establishment, served in the open. Three hundred of us, all well attended to by Naparima belles. There was the best of wine and of company, and it was a truly joyous scene. Afterwards there was dancing for those who liked—electric light had been specially laid on in the grounds—and there was a Concert at which "The Poms" repeated the

successful performance they recently gave in Port of Spain. And then we all went back in our special or our motors, agreeing that Naparima had done us well, that we had had the best of times, and that Mrs. Perez was the most marvellous of organisers, for I need hardly add that, as Honorary Secretary, she had been the moving spirit from first to last. The Olde English Fayre of San Fernando will last in the memory of all who were present so long as they can remember.

#### MARRIAGE.

**Saint Amour de Chanaz—Baker.**—On the 30th ult. at St. Charles' Church, Kelvinside, Glasgow, by the Rev. Father Lloyd, Jean Pierre, only son of Major-General Count Saint Amour de Chanaz, 77, Corso Siccardi, Turin, to Annie Dodds (Nance) only daughter of Mr. Charles Crowther Baker, 1, Alfred Terrace, Glasgow, W., and late of Demerara. British Guiana papers please copy.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

*The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.*

SIR,—For some time we have been importing Jamaica cigars and have been able to do a regular and increasing business. Our consignments used to reach us in three weeks from the date of leaving the factory and at a cost of 13 per cent. for freight. Now we get deliveries at irregular intervals of about 9 to 10 weeks and sometimes longer and the cost of freight is three times what it used to be.

Under these conditions it is extremely difficult to do business and there is bound to be a serious falling off in all trade with the West Indies.

Is there any hope of getting a better service?

R. KNIGHT,

Manager of the Golofina Tobacco Co.

#### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

##### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announce that owing to the abnormal circumstances of the year 1914 (which will be dealt with in the forthcoming Report) they are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend on the Ordinary Stock, but they recommend the payment of the usual dividend, for the half-year ended the 31st December last, at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum (less Income Tax), on the Preference Stock.

In their Annual Report the Directors point out that the conditions during the year were abnormal, the business having suffered not only from the effects of the war, but also from the most acute trade depression in the trade with Brazil and Argentina. The passenger traffic has for the time being been reduced to very small proportions, and sailings have had to be curtailed. The increased cost of operating high-class passenger steamers under existing conditions is the most serious difficulty which the Directors have had to face. There has been a steady growth in the cost of wages and coal, and the premium of war risks insurance are still equal to 6 per cent. per annum on the value of the steamers. The Company continues to suffer most serious loss and inconvenience from the closing of their home port at Southampton, and the greatest difficulty has been experienced in obtaining accommodation even of an inadequate kind elsewhere. Since the commencement

of the war there has been serious falling away of passenger traffic on the West Indian route and the tourist traffic from England to New York and the West Indies has disappeared for the time being. The mail service between Canada has the West Indies has been regularly maintained, and the earnings of the present year indicate better results. The *Thames, Oruba, Kennel, Taw, Tees, and Wear* have been sold out of the service, but 11 large vessels have been added to the fleet. Since the close of the year, although there has been no revival of passenger traffic, a substantial improvement has taken place in the general nett earnings of the Company, and the Directors look forward with considerable confidence to the outcome of the present year's operations. The Profit and Loss Account shows a balance of profit for the year of £97,446 3s. as compared with £130,086 18s. 10d. for 1913. After making full provision for depreciation, and transferring £100,000 from the Reserve Fund, the Court recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the Preference Stock, making five per cent., for the year, and leaving a balance of £18,920 18s. 6d. to be carried forward.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.		Prices
Good			May 3
4 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2 %	Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	83
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1924	97
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 %	Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
4 %	The Colonial Bank		51 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		76 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		95
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		98
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		99 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures		100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		15/3
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		103 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/2 shares)		
—	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)		par
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Percp. Pref.		103
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.		75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		99
1/6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		12
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		11
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd"		11
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		99 1/2

#### WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 27th, "Fine rains generally throughout the island." **Demerara** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), April 28th, "Weather dry." (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co.), April 28th, "Weather favourable—too heavy West Coast." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 3rd, "Weather favourable." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended April 7th. Port Antonio: 1st to 4th, "Fine"; 5th, "Rain"; 6th to 7th "Fine." Kingston: 1st to 2nd, "Fine"; 3rd, "Rain"; 4th to 7th, "Fine."

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                    |                      |                     |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. W. Abbott      | Mr. G. Graf          | Mr. L. J. Lipscombe |
| Mr. A. K. Agar     | Mr. John T. Grew     | Mr. A. S. Kemahan   |
| Rev. R. Bracey     | Mr. E. A. H. Haghart | Mr. G. Raiton       |
| Mr. A. Campbell    | His Honour Leslie    | Mr. W. C. Robertson |
| Mr. F. J. Evans    | Jarvis               | Mr. W. F. Samuels   |
| Mr. W. M. Fletcher | Mr. D. L. Johnson    | Mr. W. Smith        |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. E. P. Gladwin, Homelacy, St. Andrews Road, Portslade, Sussex.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaten, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.
- Mr. Austin H. Kirby, The Warren, Calabar, S.P., Nigeria.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from August 8th, 1914; War Loan, 9/16 discount; Consols 6 1/2.

**SUGAR** There has been no new development during the last fortnight. Crop reaping in Cuba progresses steadily, but there is no reason to believe that the present deficiency will be reduced, although Messrs. Willett and Gray consider that the much larger number of factories which continue grinding indicates a bigger crop than has been recently anticipated. It is interesting to note that the prices the Cuban planters have been and are getting for their sugars are leading to extensive factory development, which means increased Cuban crops in coming years—a development which will be an especially important factor in the sugar prices when the Continental beet industry is in full swing again. The Russian crop has finished at 2,250,000 tons of raw, equivalent to about 2,000,000 tons of refined sugar. According to figures recently given by Dr. Prinsen Geerligs, this should leave over 500,000 tons free for export to countries to which at present only 200,000 tons a year can be sent in consequence of the Brussels Convention. This 500,000 tons would all be available if Russia chose to consider the agreement as "off," and if there were free passage through the Dardanelles. It is possible that the figures representing this excess of sugar may be considerably reduced by the Vodka prohibition. It is a well-known physiological fact that the stoppage of alcohol consumption means an increased demand for sugar, and as the consumption of sugar in Russia, on which Dr. Geerligs figures were based, only amounted to 19 lbs. per head of population, there is considerable room for increase in this respect. Every additional pound of sugar consumed per individual in Russia means an increased consumption of 73,000 tons, and at the rate of 7 lbs. per annum, a reasonable increase in the circumstances, the entire surplus of Russian sugar available for export westward would be swallowed up.

Indian figures for the 12 months ending March 31st, 1915, are now to hand. During this period India imported 415,674 tons of sugar, as against 788,152 tons for the previous year, a deficiency of 373,000 tons, wholly due to the war. The bulk of the shortage was in sugar from Java, Mauritius and Austria-Hungary. From Java 253,000 tons less sugar were imported; from Mauritius, 69,500 tons; and from Austria-Hungary, 44,500 tons.

There has been a good demand for West India grocery crystallised during the fortnight, and sales have been made at full rates. Syrups have been especially wanted, and have fetched relatively high prices. In London on the 20th ult., 4,258 bags of Trinidad crystallised were mostly sold at 25s. 9d. to 27s. 9d.; 804 bags St. Lucia were sold at 26s. 3d. to 26s. 6d.; and 784 bags Demerara at 26s. 9d. to 27s. 2s. 8 bags of Trinidad syrups were partly sold, fetching 17s. 4d. to 17s. 9d. At auction on the 23rd, 1,266 bags of Trinidad crystallised fetched 26s. 3d. to 27s. 3d.; and 986 bags of Demerara crystallised were in part sold at 26s. 9d. to 27s. 9d.; 587 bags Trinidad syrups were also partly disposed of at 18s. 6d. to 19s. 9d.; with 350 bags of Demerara syrups which realised 19s. 3d. to 20s. 3d. On the 27th, 214 bags of Demerara crystallised sold at 26s. to 26s. 3d., and 420 bags fine yellow Trinidad crystallised at 27s. to 27s. 3d. On the 30th, 2,020 bags of Jamaica crystallised sold at 25s. 3d. to 26s. 6d.; 812 bags Trinidad crystallised at 26s. 9d. to 27s. 3d.; and 237 bags, 209 barrels and 8 tierces Demerara syrups sold at 14s. to 17s. 9d.

The present value of good to fine West Indian crystallised may be put down as being 26s. 6d. to 28s. The refined market has been steady. Refiners' granulated first quality is quoted at 28s., and Tate's at 31s.

The statistics of West Indian sugar from January 1st to April 24th are as under:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	12,194	12,335	10,312	8,839	12,336
Deliveries	11,855	8,599	7,995	9,201	10,156
Stock, April 24th	6,348	16,136	4,156	4,127	6,538

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**—ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Tugs, May 5th:—

- |                       |                         |                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Dr & Mrs. G. Campbell | Miss N. J. Maynard      | Sister Conzaque      |
| Mr and Mrs N. Scott   | Mr. W. I. Sousa         | McGrath              |
| Johnson               | Temp. Lt. J. K. Catter- | Sister Antony Eaquey |
| Misses Johnson (2)    | son-Smith, R.N.V.R.     |                      |
| Miss A. B. Gomes      | Sister Dominic Frawley  |                      |

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Mar. 25.		Jan. 1 to Mar. 30.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar ...	19,955	17,215 Tons.	255	2,062 Tons.
Molasses ...	...	617 Puns.	...	...
Rum ...	1,169,897	864,528	180,736	277,799 Galls.
Molasses, &c. ...	255	752 Tons.	...	...
Cacao ...	21,037	23,357 lbs.	1,340,704	1,863,424 Lbs.
Coffee ...	32,390	78,350	2,782,236	3,983,392 "
Coco-nuts ...	407,630	561,207 No.	5,292,930	5,869,025 No.
Oranges ...	...	...	823,900	1,399,950 "
Bananas	...	...	1,000,531	2,381,618 Stems.
Cotton ...	...	...	5,031	...
Pimento	...	...	16,562	32,544 Cwts.
Ginger ...	...	...	1,432	4,719
Peas ...	...	...	2,542	37,686 Galls.
Dried goods	...	...	6,253	15,509 Tons.
Gold ...	14,064	11,899 ozs.	...	...
Diamonds	...	2,008 Carats.	...	...
Rice ...	6,323,722	6,293,961 lbs.	...	...
Malata	354,231	210,793 "	...	...
Rubber ...	825	...	...	...
Timber ...	37,261	39,659 cubic ft.	...	...
Lumber ...	6,902	77,176 ft.	...	...
Lime (hydrate of)	1,958	...	...	...

Trinidad.		Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to Apr. 12.		Jan. 1 to Apr. 8.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar ...	10,572	12,487 Tons.	4,326	6,815 Tons.
Molasses ...	683	1,219 Puns.	5,703	18,241 Puns.
Rum ...	926	340 "	...	...
Coco-nuts	2,250,375	4,593,865 No.	...	...
Apples ...	14,088	47,707 Tons.	...	...
Mango	78	69 "	...	...
Butters	4,601	5,491 Cases.	...	...
Coffee ...	9,920	4,480 lbs.	...	...
made (netrol)	82,990	4,446,765 Galls.	...	...
Caca	26,919,400	36,693,000 lbs.	...	...
Cotton ...	...	...	...	...
Seed ...	...	...	...	...
Copra ...	7,332	2,187 Bars.	...	...
Spice	...	...	...	...
Nola	...	...	...	...

Grenada.	
Oct. 1 to Apr. 18.	
1914/15	1913/14
8,878,680	9,369,580 lbs.
35	426 Bales
790	1,422 Bags.
96	101 "
685,205	540,310 lbs.
3,160	2,900

Dominica.		Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.	
1914.		1913.	
Cacao ...	993,858	...	1,070,720 lbs.
...	45,714	...	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	370,875	...	336,728 galls.
concentrated	148,179	...	158,974 "
Citrate of ...	5,191	...	4,753 cwts.
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984	...	3,370 galls.
emulsiel	1,619	...	1,505 "
Hardwood	82,134	...	77,903 feet.
Ropes	3,780	...	4,266 stems
Economic	554,549	...	448,747 No.

The New York market has exhibited some fluctuations since the date of our last report. The \$4.80 price for 96° duty paid crystals then quoted, the result of British buying, fell on the 20th ult. to \$4.77, and on the 23rd relapsed to \$4.64. On the 28th, however, France came into the market as a purchaser of refiners' granulated, and the price of 96°'s went to \$4.77 and on the following day to \$4.84. On the 2nd, the value of this sugar was \$4.84. Refiners' granulated stands at \$5.90.

**RUM**—In our last report allusion was made to the stoppage of the rum rations to our troops at the front. It is pleasing to be able to report that this was only temporary, the rations being resumed after three days' cessation.

The long expected decision of the Government as regards the drink question has been made public. So far as spirits are concerned, the duty has been doubled, which must seriously affect the general consumption, which is no doubt what Mr. George aimed at in bringing in the Bill. His last Budget, in which the beer duty was largely increased, had the effect of increasing the consumption of whisky, and lessening that of beer. The present action is intended to produce the opposite result, as there is no increase of duty on beers below a certain alcoholic strength. In fact, the Government wants to convert the British public into a nation of lager beer drinkers. The increasing consumption of rum, which of late has been very noticeable, must receive a check, as this spirit is practically entirely drunk by the lower classes. There is, of course, the chance that the proletariat may recognise the fact that for the same expenditure, infinitely more stimulation is obtained from rum than from whisky, and that thereby, the position may become less acute as regards rum; but there cannot be a doubt that, in common with that of other spirits, the consumption of rum must suffer severely. As a matter of fact, the Central Board which it is proposed to constitute to deal with local conditions, would be quite sufficient to deal with the immediate question involved without the infliction of absurd prohibitive duties. The great increase in wine duties, especially affecting our allies, in itself shows that the intemperance among certain workmen has been the peg on which to hang a cherished scheme of Mr. George's in the direction of compulsory teetotalism. As might be expected, anticipation of the measure and the publication of the Bill, has practically paralysed the market.

A further quantity of Argentine spirit, made from cane molasses, 68° O.P., to the extent of 40,000 gallons, has been sold at 10d. per proof gallon, packages to be returned. This is a further consignment of the same class of spirit, practically silent, admitted by the Customs as rum and recommended by the brokers as being excellent for "either gin or rum."

The value of Demerara rum may be taken as 2s. 3d. per proof gallon, and of Jamaica as being 3s. for ordinary qualities.

Stocks in London, April 24th:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	3,814	5,765	5,184	7,287	8,246
Demerara	8,221	10,663	8,437	8,216	6,539
Total, all kinds	12,035	16,428	13,621	15,503	14,785

**CACAO**—Auction sales were resumed on the 27th ult., after a fortnight's interval, 14,286 bags being put up, of which 5,748 bags were West Indian. Very little of this was sold, a small quantity of fine Trinidad fetching 90s., a decline of 8s. on last public sales, and a few bags of Grenada at 82s. Some Dominica was sold at 69s. to 73s. 6d., together with a few bags of St. Lucia at 85s. Some sales of Jamaica were effected at 80s. to 90s.; 231 bags of Java fetched prices varying from 90s. to 95s. Subsequent to the public sales a fair business has been done privately in most kinds at the above rates. Good Trinidad may be quoted at 90s., with ordinary Grenada at 82s. The freight service of the steamers between this country and Holland has been resumed after the temporary stoppage, which should affect business favourably. The landings in London for the fortnight have been 5,740 bags in excess of the number for

the corresponding period of last year, and deliveries, 4,360 bags in excess.

The stocks in London on April 24th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	7,492	7,734	6,747	7,906	5,912
Grenada	8,026	16,892	9,649	13,616	18,588
Total, all kinds	15,518	24,626	16,396	21,522	24,500

**COTTON** The Government has at last prohibited the export of raw cotton from this country to all foreign ports in Europe, including the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Spain and Portugal. This has, presumably, been done in view of the important part that cotton plays in modern explosives. Fine Sea Island also forms the basis of the material used for the wings of aeroplanes. There can be little doubt that much raw cotton has been going from the United Kingdom to enemy countries, the exports to Sweden and Holland, which, for the first three months of 1914 were 1,877,500 lbs. amounted to 19,442,700 lbs. for the corresponding period of the present year, an increase of 1,000 per cent.

In the present state of the war improved enquiry cannot be looked for in connection with West Indian cotton. A small business has been done in West Indian Sea Island in the fortnight amounting to 50 bales. This included St. Vincent at 17d., and a few lots of St. Kitts, Montserrat and Nevis at 15d. 15½d.

Up to the 29th ult. the quantity of West Indian imported for the year has amounted to 1,272 bales.

A threatened crisis in the Sea Island cotton industry of the West Indies has been averted by the decision of the Fine Spinners to guarantee a minimum price for the entire crop of the ensuing season.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Raw Lime Juice has improved in price, fine Jamaica being quoted at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per gallon, with sales of fair Dominica at 3s. 1½d. Concentrated is dearer, and sales have taken place at £25. Distilled Lime Oil is also dearer, with some sales of small quantities at 3s. 6d. per lb. for good white kinds; but there has been no demand for handpressed. Citrate of Lime £24 c.i.f. New York. Fresh Limes—There is still a complete dearth of these which is particularly unfortunate as the demand for lemons is sure to increase in view of the temperance movement.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs.—West Indian have been in good demand, sales having been made of 68's at 7½d., 78's to 90's at 5d. to 5½d.; 92's at 4½d.; 80's to 100's at 4½d., and 120's to 130's at 4½d. West Indian Mace is dearer, ordinary to fair reddish selling at from 1s. 11d. to 2s. 2d., and broken at 1s. to 1s. 9d. Pimento has been dull with sales at 2d.

**ARROWROOT**—Sales have been on a somewhat smaller scale during the fortnight, barely 500 barrels being reported, at 2d. to 4½d. The Association has now put up prices ½d., making prices nominally 2½d. to 4½d.

**COPRA**—Prices have declined during the fortnight, and sales have taken place on the spot as low as £25. Value to arrive may be taken as £25 10s.

**RUBBER**—Prices are somewhat lower all round. Spot sales of crepe have been made at 2s. 2½d.; smoked sheet 1½d. down to 2s. 3½d.; fine hard Para is quoted 2s. 5½d.

**BALATA**—Sheet is quoted at 2s. 4½d. London terms, block at 1s. 11½d. c.i.f.

**GINGER**—Middling small to middling bold is worth 57s. 6d. to 67s. 6d.

**HONEY**—Dull yellow to palish 30s. to 37s. 6d.

**TIMBER**—Honduras Logwood may be quoted at £6 15s. to £6 10s.; Jamaica, at £4 10s. to £5 5s.; Honduras Cedar at 4d. to 5d.; Lignum Vitae at £3 10 to £7; and Satinwood at 9d. to 2s.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Prices unchanged. Water White 9½d.; American 8½d.

May 3rd, 1915. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone :  
6642 CENTRAL.  
Telegrams :  
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May 17th, 1915.

### THE GROWTH OF IMPERIAL UNITY.

AT the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee the Chairman made some pertinent remarks on this subject. Like most thinking men he has been profoundly impressed by the spontaneous rally of the Empire to the flag last August. As one man all "its peoples, nations and languages" rose at the German challenge to England as the depository of free Western civilisation, offering themselves and all that they had to the Allied cause. Their instinctive recognition that it was theirs, also, was remarkable enough in the Dominions, which are of our own kin, but in the Dependencies, which are bewildering in their diversity of race and creed, it was a miracle. After this who shall say that the Empire has no moral consciousness? It may be embryonic, but it was strong enough at the most critical moment of our destiny to enable the King's four hundred million subjects to act in unison. As MR. CAMPBELL, truly pointed out the part played by the Dominions and Dependencies in the war is altering Imperial values, more than one vexed question having solved itself already. The Empire, which the German vainly imagined would fly to pieces at the first stroke of his military hammer, is being welded together by the anvil of destiny. In the fateful days of last August it was silently decided by the brother-

hood of nations, which is the British ideal of world power, that the Empire was more than a geographical expression, it was a living organism, which could and would, mobilise its whole resources in men, money and material, to meet the danger that threatened it. This has surprised people, who, like LORD MORLEY, once scoffed at the idea of the Dominions joining England in a war for the neutrality of Belgium, in which they had no obvious interest. But after the magnificent demonstration of Imperial solidarity in South Africa sixteen years ago, why should they be surprised at the greater one of to-day. The truth is, that to eyes whose inner vision is bounded by reason alone, the British Empire is a sealed book, laughing at the philosophers and doctrinaires who want it to square with their peddling theories. Its growth is as irresistible as a force of nature, its source being so deep down in the English character that nothing has been able to check it for long, since our adventurous seamen opened the New World to us. It is a monument to race, not to intellect.

That is why it owes so little to party and politicians, compelling them, however, even when most reluctant, to do it service. To those who study it remote from them, the manifestation of Imperial consciousness in the early weeks of the war was in the natural order of things. It was but a step, the greatest, no doubt, but still a step, in the process, by which the Dominions have evolved from tiny settlements clinging to the coast, into nations, and signified their intention of reconciling their maturity with their continued existence in the Empire. Behind it is the force generated by centuries of effort and the wisdom acquired by long and bitter experience. For there was no break in our Imperial continuity at Secession; it was given a new direction, with severe loss, that was all. During the intervening period the Dominions, though widely sundered by vast oceans, have organised themselves on common principles and with common ideals into powerful units from strength begotten on the spot. Simultaneously with this movement towards union from within their own borders, they gave impetus to the movement towards union within the Empire, which, since 1900, has made such marked progress. Yet there is an influential body of opinion in this country which calls for the consummation of Imperial unity by legislative means. Without this great conscious act they hold that real cohesion is impossible. Surely they overlook the fact that great unconscious acts are of the essence of our development.

The construction of the Pacific cable, the first

joint undertaking of the Five Nations; the individual and co-operative processes by which the Empire has built up a great preferential trade system from which Great Britain alone stands aloof; the creation of an Australian Fleet, a factor of high naval importance in the Pacific during the first five months of the war; the rejection of the reciprocity pact with the United States by Canada, and last, but not least, the endowment of the Imperial Conference with organic life, are all milestones on the great Imperial road, but with none of them could it be said that unity was finally reached. Are we not here working in the traditional way, which finds its noblest expression in the British Constitution, that never had a conscious beginning and never can have a conscious end, except with the extinction of the race. Britannic co-operation is a thing of slow growth, depending for its strength on precedent and practice rather than on the written word. In grasping the fundamental fact of British growth overseas, which is nationalism, CHAMBERLAIN broke alike with the federal and the philosophical schools, which ignore it, and founded one of his own in harmony with it. All the great political organisations of our time, he further saw, have one feature in common, their boundaries are continuous, but between the autonomous units under the Flag, oceans roll. To him, therefore, it appeared that a form of union suited to Continental States was not suited to Maritime States. Both postulate mutual reciprocity in trade. But whereas the one begets federation, the other as surely begets co-partnership on the larger and more pliant lines of a league.

And it is on these lines that the Empire is steadily progressing through the Imperial Conference, in which the Dominions are recognised as equal "in status if not in stature" with Great Britain. This body, which is so elastic that it is capable of expanding to include representatives of India and of the British West Indies, is a real Imperial Council. It is the symbol of nationalism under the Crown, of the free spirit which is of the essence of British power, of decentralisation as opposed to centralisation. Step by step it has arrived at the point when it is taken into the confidence of British Ministers as a right, a sign of which is the announcement that the Dominions are to be consulted on the terms of peace at the conclusion of the war. But would there be any machinery for it had not the Conference impressed itself on political thought in this country by its vitality. Above all it stands for the economic co-operation of the Empire both as regards trade and communications. So far it has been hampered by the unyielding attitude of the British Government, which is wedded to Cobdenism, but it has been able to present the other side with such power as to gain ground for Imperial Preference with each Session. Since the war with Germany will not end on the stricken field, but will be relentlessly continued in the domain of commercial competition, the utmost vigilance will be required to prevent the

enemy from working on the Free Trade sympathies of British statesmen to extort from them trade concessions. In a meeting of the Conference, full or subsidiary, the cause will find its most potent aid. Therefore it should meet soon, and better sooner than later. As LORD MILNER has warned us it was not the war itself, which, on a previous occasion, disrupted the Empire, but the aftermath of the war. To save the dire disaster of a peace which might sow discord in the Empire, let there be, through the Conference, full discussion now.

#### THE IMMATURE SPIRITS BILL.

THE circumstances which have led the Government to take drastic steps to control further the sale of spirits in this country are too well-known to need recapitulating. It is claimed that the output of munitions has been seriously handicapped by the abuse of stimulants and especially new whisky by the workers. At one time a total prohibition of spirits was threatened. It gave place, however, to prohibitory duties. Owing to the general opposition to which these gave rise, they have, in turn, been abandoned in favour of legislation for restricting the supply and sale of immature spirits. As soon as this was made known it became apparent that for several reasons—the principal being the limited stocks—rum would require special treatment and the views of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE on the subject were laid before the Commissioners of Customs. When on May 11th the Immature Spirits (Restrictions) Bill was introduced into Parliament it was found, with one important exception to which we will refer later, to follow the lines expected. It provides that no British or foreign spirits shall be delivered for home consumption unless they have been warehoused for a period of at least three years. Spirits which are delivered free of duty—as for example industrial alcohol, and, we assume, rum for the Navy and Army—are exempted from the provisions of the Bill, and subject to the payment of extra duties exceptions are made in the cases of spirits for rectification, spirits for use for scientific purposes, gin (which being a rectified spirit does not benefit from ageing) and rum. With the conditions attaching to gin we are not immediately concerned; but the position with regard to rum may be set out as follows. Imported rum may be delivered for home consumption if it has been warehoused for nine months only, subject to the payment of extra duties to put it on the same footing as spirit which has been compulsorily warehoused for three years. These extra duties will, it is understood, be 1s. 6d. per gallon on rum taken out under two years old, and 1s. per gallon on rum over two but under three years old. Under the terms of the Bill this concession is for the period of a year, and it is this apparent limitation of the concession that was unexpected; but it is, however, quite understood in official circles that it will be necessary to extend it until sufficient stocks have been built up for the annual requirements of three year old rum.

and it is the direction of securing an amendment or a definite pledge in Parliament that the concession shall be extended until stocks are built up that the energies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have been and are being directed. Meanwhile the Bill has passed its third reading. Provided that the desired assurance as to the extension of the one year period is given the new legislation should not react prejudicially on the rum trade. An age limit is certainly preferable to prohibition, and it will not affect consumption as the increased duties—which are temporarily in force pending the settlement of this question—would have done. We have authority for stating that in the event of the Bill becoming law, in order to obviate the necessity for the production of certificates of age in the case of rum, the Commissioners of Customs will be prepared, failing the production of certificates to show that the actual age is greater, to credit the rum with an age of three months on importation. This will reduce the period of compulsory bonding in this country to six months and provided it is clearly understood that this concession must be continued until stocks are built up, it does not appear that rum need suffer.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 13th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members present included Mr. Robert Rutherford, Deputy Chairman, Mr. W. Abbott, Mr. Bailey, the Very Rev. the Dean of Georgetown, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. E. R. Dawson, Mr. J. J. Eastick, Mr. Stephen Ewen, Mr. C. H. B. Fryer, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. H. Hamel-Smith, Mr. R. Kirke, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. Howard Marsh, Mr. Arthur J. McConnell, Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., Mr. T. Prentice, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. H. Scrutton, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D'E. Spooner, Mr. W. H. Trollope, Mr. F. C. Worters, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Mr. Campbell, opening the proceedings said: "Assembled as we are to-day as an association representing the West Indian colonies, I think it will not be out of place if we postpone for a few minutes the consideration of the Annual Report, and place on record our appreciation and admiration of the support which has been so generously given to the Mother Country in this time of stress. It is true that we have not been permitted to send a contingent to emulate the heroic deeds of the troops from the great Dominions, on the Continent and at the Dardanelles, but I can say without fear of contradiction that all classes, all creeds, all races, have done what they can to show their loyalty. Many sons of the West Indies have joined the Navy and Army, and not a few have laid down their lives for their King and Country. It is not the size of the many gifts

they have given which is honoured so much as the spirit in which they have been given. It is to be regretted that the West Indies have not been always appreciated in the past by the Mother Country, and that their interests should so often have been sacrificed to party politics. (Hear, hear). They, in common with the great Dominions and Dependencies, have been looked upon too much as isolated units, instead of being treated as part and parcel of a great Empire. All this, I believe, will now be changed, and, if I am right, it will be due to the germination of the seed sown by the greatest of our Colonial Secretaries of State—the late Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. (Applause). He it was who dreamed of a British Empire bound together, not merely by sentiment, but by ties of commerce and a community of interests. Should such a dream be realised, it will mean that all the great Dominions and Colonies—including, of course, the British West Indies,—and I see no reason why we should not be considered—will have direct representation on an Imperial Council, and thus the whole Empire will have a voice in the Imperial Government. This may be a Utopian idea, but I am convinced that out of this terrible war there will come a desire for closer commercial and political union, the realisation of which will lead to a more united, and, consequently a stronger, Empire. (Applause).

"I have ventured to make these remarks because I feel that the time has now been reached when it is absolutely necessary for us to bring this matter prominently before the various colonies, and I trust that it will be ventilated by the Press in the West Indies.

"I now have to pass to our report which shows, I think, once again that our Committee is a very live one. The number of members at the end of last year was certainly less than at the corresponding date in the previous year, but this is not to be wondered at in view of the war. The actual numbers on the 31st December, 1914, were 1,559, as compared with 1,598 on the same date in 1913—not a very great drop. The surplus assets over liabilities showed a marked improvement amounting to £2,990 18s. 11d., as against £2,063 0s. 4d. in the previous year. Through death we lost 26 members as compared with 30 in 1913. Since we last met we have lost our first President of the West India Committee, namely Sir Nevile Lubbock. We all know what a potent factor he has been in the history of this association for a great number of years, and I beg, therefore, to move 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 motion having been seconded by Mr. R.



Rutherford and carried unanimously, the Chairman proceeded "Before passing to further matters I think it is well to remind you that under the terms of our Charter we were empowered to appoint a President and Vice-President. The positions are largely complimentary, and we felt that no one more deserved the honour of being made our first President than Sir Nevile Lubbock. (Hear, hear). We now propose to recommend to you that Lord Harewood, who is a Barbados estates' proprietor, and whose family has for generations been honourably connected with the British West Indies, be our President. I now, therefore, beg to move

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."

Mr. Rutherford seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Campbell: "Before I formally move the adoption of the report we should, I think, as usual, pay some tribute to our Honorary Correspondents for the good work they have done during the past year. Those of us who receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR must have been struck by the interesting fortnightly letters from our Hon. Correspondents, and I feel we owe them a debt of gratitude for the interest which they have in the welfare of their respective islands, and for their efforts to serve this Committee, and I, therefore, propose that an expression of our indebtedness be sent to them." (Applause).

Mr. Campbell then 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.

Mr. Thomas Prentice, rising to second the motion, said there were one or two subjects to which the attention of the Committee might with advantage be devoted. There was, for example, the whole system of Colonial finance and especially that of Trinidad and British Guiana. If they as business men would study the Blue-books they would find matter for much useful criticism. Some years ago in Trinidad they succeeded in ear-marking tonnage dues, which could now only be employed for the improvement of the port. In Demerara heavy dues were credited to the general revenue of the colony, and he thought that it would be a good thing to ear-mark these Demerara dues also for expenditure on the improvement and up-keep of the port. (Hear, hear).

The Chairman having invited any member present who might wish to do so to express his views or ask any question, Mr. W. Abbott said that he had only been a member of the Committee for a few months, though he had been associated with British Guiana and the islands for the last 23 years. The islands did not progress as they should or get the same hearing from the Colonial Office as other colonies, because of their lack of unity. Would any other colonies

have arranged such an unbusinesslike agreement as the present mail contract, which placed them in the hands of a shipping combine, that raised freights and passage money just as suited it best? He hoped that the Committee and the colonies would put their foot down on the monstrous proposal of the Royal Mail Company to reduce its service during the war and exact a larger contribution from the Government. High freights were driving trade to America. He characterised the system of deferred rebates as an imposition, the shippers having to wait from eighteen months to two years before they got a refund, while those in Jamaica, who did not give a subsidy, obtained it within six months. The remedy was unity, and he proposed that the Committee should call together about a dozen of the largest shippers with a view of forming a combine to support a single company, the Canadian Pacific for preference, though he would not object to Scrutton's, or even the Royal Mail, if satisfactory arrangements could be made. What was wanted was a steamer of about 5,000 tons to call fortnightly at Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and New York, and *vice versa*, and a steamer of about 4,000 tons to call fortnightly at Demerara, the Windward Island, the Leeward Islands, New York and *vice versa*, each to carry 100 passengers, the freights and passages to be arranged by a Conference, and the contract to include a clause preventing the company from joining the combine.

The Chairman, replying, said that Mr. Abbott had raised some controversial points which were very difficult to deal with at the present time. He, the Chairman, appreciated the importance of all Mr. Abbott had said and he proposed to appoint a small Committee which Mr. Abbott would be asked to attend, when these points could be discussed. The matter that Mr. Prentice had raised would also be carefully considered.

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

The Chairman then moved that Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton and Mr. H. D'Esterre 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. F. 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.



*The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Dudley Woodbridge Esq<sup>r</sup> Director Gen<sup>l</sup> of the Royal African Company of England  
in Barbados.*

**THE HONBLE. DUDLEY WOODBRIDGE.**

From a Mezzotint Engraving after the painting by Sir Godfrey Kneller, presented to the West India Committee by  
W. H. Trollope, Esq.

### The Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O.

Lord Harewood, who succeeds Sir Nevile Lubbock as President of the West India Committee, comes of a family which has long been honourably connected with the West Indies. Edward Lascelles, who was created first Baron Harewood in 1796, was son of the Collector of Customs in Barbados of the same name. He represented Northallerton in several parliaments and was advanced to viscounty and earldom in 1812 by the titles of Viscount Lascelles and the Earl of Harewood. The present and fifth Earl is A.D.C. to the King, and Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding and City of York, and President of the local Territorial Force Association, which has taken up much of his time since the war began. Formerly a captain in the Grenadier Guards, he is Colonel of the Yorkshire Hussars. He was married in 1881 to Lady Florence Katherine Bridgeman, daughter of the third Earl of Bradford. He is the owner of about 29,700 acres, and his country seats are Harewood House, Leeds, and Goldsborough Hall, Knaresborough.

### The New Members of the Executive.

The three new members elected to the Executive of the West India Committee are all closely interested in the West Indies. Mr. W. A. Griffin is a partner in the firm of Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., West India Merchants, of London and New York. He started the business of the firm's house in New York in 1889 and remained there until about six years ago, when he came to London. He has a thorough knowledge of every part of the West Indies, having been in the habit of going to Jamaica or down the islands almost every year when he resided in America.

Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton is a partner in the firm of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons and Co., shipowners, which was established as far back as 1802, and still retains a mercantile connection with Dominica—a survival of the days when the West Indian houses were shipowners as well as merchants. Mr. Scrutton has visited every part of the West Indies, and his knowledge of conditions prevailing in Dominica has already proved of value on more than one occasion when he has attended meetings of the West India Committee or taken part in deputations.

Mr. H. D'E. Spooner, who only returned from a visit to the Leeward Islands a fortnight since, entered the firm of Messrs. R. and T. Neave, West India Merchants, twenty-five years ago. This firm which became successively Messrs. Lee, Crerar and Co., Messrs. A. M. Lee and Co., and Messrs. Lee, Spooner and Co.—a name which it still holds, is mainly interested in Antigua and St. Kitts. Mr. Spooner, who is a brother-in-law of the late Mr. A. Morier Lee, for many years a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, is Chairman of Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Ltd., which owns the estate of the same name in Antigua, and has an intimate knowledge of the sugar trade.

### THE HON. DUDLEY WOODBRIDGE.

The West India Committee is indebted to Mr. W. H. Trollope for the mezzotint of the Hon. Dudley Woodbridge, after the painting by Sir Godfrey Kneller, a reproduction of which faces page 212 in the present issue. The Hon. Dudley Woodbridge was Judge-Advocate of Barbados, and Director General of the Royal Assiento Company—the concern which held the Assiento, or contract for introducing slaves into the West Indies—in that island. He is believed to have been the son of John Woodbridge, who left Oxford because he objected to the oath of conformity and settled at Newbury in New England. Dudley Woodbridge resided at Porters, afterwards the home of the Alleyne family, and now the residence of Dr. Graham Pilgrim. Those who have been privileged to visit that charming house will recall the swimming bath near by with its curious Latin inscription to the effect that it—a chapel—was turned into a bath through being flooded contrary to the wishes of Dudley Woodbridge, though he loved cleanliness.

### THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

#### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

In the preceding CIRCULARS we gave the replies of the Governors of British Guiana, Fiji and Mauritius respectively to the circular letter which the West India Committee addressed to the Governments of the sugar-producing colonies asking what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry. In these it was shown that under favourable conditions the production of British Guiana could be raised to 2,500,000 tons, that of Fiji to 95,000, and that of Mauritius to 305,000 tons annually. We now give the reply from His Excellency Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad, 10th April, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 391 of the 6th October last with regard to the possibility of extending the sugar industry of the Colony, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that the matter was referred to a Committee of the Board of Agriculture, copies of whose report I enclose herewith for your information.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

The Secretary, S. W. KNAGGS,  
The West India Committee, Colonial Secretary.

[Enclosure.]

*Report of the Sugar Committee of the Board of Agriculture on the possible extension of the sugar industry of the Colony.*

This report is the outcome of a letter dated October 6th, 1914, to His Excellency the Governor from the Secretary of the West India Committee in which it was pointed out that "in view of the high prices which consumers in the

United Kingdom are now paying as the result of their dependence on the Continent of Europe, and especially on Germany and Austria, for the bulk of their supplies of sugar in the past, the question as to extending Great Britain's sources of sugar supply within the Empire is bound shortly to be raised."

The Committee asked to be informed what room there is for the expansion of the sugar industry in Trinidad, and for figures showing (a) the actual acreage suitable and available for cane sugar cultivation; (b) the approximate amount of sugar which the Colony would be capable of providing with its existing labour supply.

The letter was brought before the Board of Agriculture on October 21, and it was decided that the authorities of the chief sugar estates should be asked to supply the information desired and that their replies should be considered and reported on by the Sugar Committee which is constituted as follows:—

Prof. Carmody, Director of Agriculture (Chairman), Hon. Sir Townsend Feuwick, K.C.M.G., Hon. W. G. Kay, Messrs. J. W. Arbuckle, J. Black, W. G. Freeman, J. McLeod, J. B. Rorer, and C. F. Todd.

The following is a summary of the replies received from the various estates, denoted by the letters A., B., etc.:—

- A.—Inquires what price would be guaranteed.
- B.—The labour supply is dependent on rate of wages; with sugar selling at a lucrative price labour would probably be attracted from other colonies; but much more could not be done with the existing supply. Extension of the industry would necessitate investment of fresh capital, which would not be forthcoming without an assurance by the Imperial Government of a preference for Colonial sugar.
- C.—The acreage in Naparima could be increased by perhaps fifty per cent. if the labour supply and future market price permitted such extension. The present labour supply is inadequate for the existing area and forms the most serious drawback to extension.
- D.—The proprietor has about 1,000 acres of uncultivated lands available but does not regard any great extension in the Colony possible with the existing labour supply.
- E.—It is expected to make 9,000 tons of sugar in 1915, an increase of 1,500 tons on last year's crop. The higher prices this year will only serve to recover previous losses, and without a guarantee from the Imperial Government of better treatment at the end of the war the estates may not be able to continue to produce sugar. With a guarantee of Colonial preference a further extension of 4,000 tons might be expected but this would necessitate large outlays of capital. Sufficient labour would be forthcoming with continuation of present immigration facilities.
- F.—The sugar area of the estate is being reduced by the planting of coco-nuts and limes. The Colony is capable of producing 60,000 to 70,000 tons with the existing labour supply. More cane farmers will be forthcoming so long as prices are remunerative.
- G.—The only bar to increased production is the uncertainty as to the market. With a guarantee of price the company would probably extend the cultivation and equip the factory accordingly.
- H.—The estates have 8,000 acres in cane and could add 1,000, with existing labour supply, provided sale of Crown lands is not reopened. This addition would necessitate capital outlay, which would scarcely be forthcoming without guarantee of remunerative price.
- I.—The estates produce 3,000 tons, but have land to produce 7,500 or probably 8,000 tons. The existing labour supply in the district prevents such expansion. During recent years sugar prices have been unsatisfactory and the sugar areas of the estates have been reduced, coco-nuts having been planted. With

a guarantee as to price the company would extend cane cultivation, and improve the factory accordingly.

K.—Material extension of cultivation is not possible with existing labour supply, nor expansion of factory without assurance as to the attitude of the Imperial Government to Colonial sugar after the war.

L.—About 500 acres on estate available for extension with existing labour supply, but no likelihood of their being cultivated at the prices paid for canes in recent years. Considerably higher prices necessary before cane farming will attract those who employ labour.

The war offers no sound grounds for extension of the industry, cane taking 15 months to grow, whilst beet requires only six months for growth and manufacture. The close of the war will see an immediate revival of the beet industry and reduced purchasing power of all nations. The opening of the Panama Canal will lead to an enormous increase in cane cultivation in Peru and possibly other Pacific countries. The present time is therefore unfavourable for extension in the British West Indies.

M.—Estimates that in neighbourhood of the estates there are about 12,600 acres suitable for sugar cane of which about half is now in this crop. The Colony with existing labour supply, including continuance of immigration on scale of last few years could produce very little, if any, more sugar than at present. Diminution in immigration, and transfer of lands to cane farmers would decrease present output. Additional capital outlay is dependent on assurance of reasonable profit. A moderate amount of preference for Colonial cane sugar in the British market would place the West Indian sugar industry in the position of a stable, if not highly remunerative, industry in normal times.

The following is a summary of returns furnished to the Government by the Wardens as to the areas of the sugar estates in each Ward Union, distinguishing, as far as information is readily available, between sugar estates now in cultivation and those abandoned.

- (1.) *Arima*.—Five sugar estates, in two groups. In the first group 300 acres in cultivation and 80 acres abandoned. In the second 1,041 acres available for cultivation; whether actually cultivated or not is not stated.
- (2.) *Blanchisseuse*.—No sugar estates.
- (3.) *Cedras*.—No sugar estates.
- (4.) *Couva and Chaguanas*.—Five estates or groups with total cultivated area of 12,991 acres. There are also 8,372 acres on these estates and elsewhere and suitable for sugar.
- (5.) *Manzanilla*.—No sugar estates.
- (6.) *Mayaro*.—No sugar estates. Sugar cultivation has been abandoned some 50 years, and coco-nuts, cacao and coffee largely substituted. In addition to Crown lands there are about 2,000 acres available for sugar cultivation.
- (7.) *Montserrat*.—Three sugar estates, with an area of 666 acres. The area of the uncultivated portions is not easily ascertainable, but it will not be large during the next two years unless a fall in the price of sugar arrests activities.
- (8.) *Naparima*.—There are 11,122 acres now in sugar cultivation and 5,374 available or suitable for sugar.
- (9.) *Oropucke and La Brea*.—Six sugar estates with an acreage of 3,555. One of 597 acres in sugar, the others under cultivation in cacao, coco-nuts with a small amount of cane farming.
- (10.) *St. Ann's and Diego Martin*.—There are about 400 acres now in sugar, and some 800 acres in addition were formerly under sugar.

- (17.) *Savann Grande and Moruga*.—Seventeen sugar estates, or groups of estates. Total acreage 11,446 of which 3,046 cultivated by estates and 2,921 by cane farmers, leaving a balance of 5,499 available for cultivation.
- (12.) *Tacarigua*.—Nine estates or groups, with total cultivated area of 9,430 acres, and 3,856 acres available for sugar.
- (13.) *Tobago*.—Sugar is cultivated on sixteen estates only, having an aggregate area of 8,354 acres. Formerly there were 90 to 100 sugar estates, but these are now largely in cacao and coco-nuts, and on the sixteen on which sugar is still grown coco-nuts are being largely interplanted amongst the canes.
- (14.) *Toco*.—No sugar estates. There are about 5,000 to 6,000 acres of forest land available for sugar, but roads, etc., are lacking.

These returns indicate that in Trinidad there are 42,514 acres in sugar cultivation, and 30,981 regarded as available for sugar. The Tobago return does not show what proportion of the 8,354 acres is actually in sugar.

The sugar production of the Colony during the last twenty years, 1895-1914, taken from the statements prepared by the Hon. Collector of Customs, for the Canada West Indies Royal Commission (1910), and subsequently from returns published annually by the Secretary of the Agricultural Society is given in the following table:—

Year.	Production tons.	Year.	Production tons.
1895-6	69,595	1905-06	48,219
1896-7	59,678	1906-07	50,000
1897-8	54,933	1907-08	50,564
1898-9	58,109	1908-09	49,933
1899-00	58,837	1909	52,973
1900-01	46,277	1910	51,950
1901-02	60,880	1911	46,718
1902-03	57,830	1912	40,936
1903-04	47,778	1913	42,331
1904-05	50,774	1914	55,488

The reduction in 1912 and 1913 was due largely to drought and frog-hopper attack; in 1914 with more normal climatic conditions and diminution in pests there was a marked recovery, the crop being the greatest since 1902-03.

During this period of twenty years the average annual sugar crop of the Colony has been 52,715 tons. The average for the eight years immediately preceding the abolition of bounties in September, 1903, as the result of the Brussels Convention of December, 1902, was 58,267 tons, and for the twelve years which have followed the abolition of bounties 49,014 tons.

An important factor which must be taken into account has been in operation during recent years; that is the substitution of canes by other and more profitable crops. Coco-nuts, and to a less degree limes and cacao, are being planted on former sugar lands on some of which canes are still cultivated as a subsidiary crop.

On the other hand there was a marked extension in cane cultivation during 1914 on the Waterloo group of estates. Greater attention is also being paid to the selection of cane plants and to improved methods of cultivation.

As the result of the consideration of the replies summarised above and the other information the Committee is of opinion that no material extension of the sugar industry is to be expected under present conditions, and that a continuation of immigration on the scale of the last few years is necessary for the maintenance of the present normal output.

The Committee is also of opinion that apart from the question of labour the dominant factor in any possible increase of the industry is the working capacity of the factories. To increase this and to provide additional encouragement for cane farmers, fresh capital is absolutely necessary. This would not be forthcoming without a guarantee that the market prices of sugar would be higher than during recent years. The only way in which this guarantee could be secured appears to the Committee to be

that a preference should be given by the Imperial Government to sugar produced in the British Empire.

Adopted by the Board at a meeting held on the 19th March, 1915.

(Sgd.) P. CARMODY.  
(Chairman).

### Trinidad's Claim for a Preference.

The above report was considered by a committee of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated) who have recorded their views regarding it in the following memorandum, which leaves no doubt as to the attitude of the colony on the subject of the policy of preference:—

*Report of a Joint Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, Incorp., and the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago upon the question of placing Colonial sugar on as favourable a footing in English markets as British beet. Adopted at General Meetings of the Chamber and the Society.*

1. The phenomenal rise in the price of sugar which took place on the outbreak of war last year is the strongest confirmation of the long predicted economic danger to the Empire of being almost altogether dependent upon foreign and possibly alien countries for the supply of so essential an article of food.

2. Incalculable harm admittedly resulted to the British sugar producing colonies in the past owing to the want of interest or indifference to their welfare displayed by successive ministries other than that of which the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was so distinguished a member, to whom the West India sugar industry is indebted for existence to-day. The effect of that want of interest or indifference is re-acting now on those who have been supporters of, or who have quietly acquiesced in, a policy which would sacrifice everything on the altar of immediate cheapness. The present abnormal cost of sugar could never have obtained had the sources of British supply been reasonably encouraged, instead of, when not actually penalised, being left in a condition of doubt paralyzing to enterprise.

3. It is too late, for present purposes at any rate, to provide for the yield within the Empire of the nation's demand for sugar at a reasonable cost, and the call of high prices presses on the people when least able to bear it, but looking at the future, an effort is being made by the West India Committee "in view of the high prices which consumers in the United Kingdom are paying as a result of their dependence . . . especially on Germany and Austria for the bulk of their supplies of sugar," to ascertain "what room there is for the expansion of the sugar industry in Trinidad and the sugar colonies." His Excellency the Governor has submitted the despatch of the West India Committee on the subject to the Board of Agriculture and the Sugar Committee of that body has issued an admirable report dealing with the past, the present, and the future

of the industry. This report sums up the situation by the statement:—

(a) That the increase of the industry depends on the capacity of the factories.

(b) To increase the capacity of the factories, and to provide additional encouragement to cane farmers, fresh capital is absolutely necessary.

(c) But this would not be forthcoming without a guarantee that the market price of sugar would be higher than during recent years.

(d) The only way in which this guarantee could be secured appears to be that a preference should be given by the Imperial Government to sugar produced in the British Empire.

4. With these views we are in entire accord. In our opinion unless such preference is given, new capital will not be forthcoming and Great Britain is likely in the future to be even more dependent on the European Continent for her supply of sugar than she has been in the past.

5. In the meantime, an influential movement is on foot to establish a beet sugar industry in England, and thus avert the future peril of absence of adequate supply in times of emergency. But the promoters of the movement feel that the prospects of success depend on the assurance of being protected in the future against unfair competition or the process of dumping by foreign competitors. They, therefore, asked whether the Government would encourage the industry by exempting home-grown sugar from excise duty for the next ten years. The answer was: "The Government have, of course, no intention in the present circumstances of proposing an excise duty on home-grown sugar."

6. Protests have been made against this announcement on the ground of the preference afforded to sugar produced in Great Britain. On the other hand it may be accepted as a frank and important admission of the principle that the foreigner is no longer to be encouraged at the expense of the home-producer—a principle, the extension of which to the cane sugar colonies of the Empire can hardly now be consistently denied.

7. The privilege of British birth is the common heritage of the British inhabitants of Trinidad as of the British Isles, and that which is accorded to the English farmer cannot in justice be withheld from the British West Indian planter.

8. This Committee, therefore, welcomes the attitude of the Imperial Government in the matter, and recommends that a respectful statement to this effect be made to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the addition of the confident assurance that, in view of the experience resulting from the war, the sugar cane industry of these colonies will be accorded advantages equal to those which are to be given to the beet industry of Great Britain herself.

W. GORDON GORDON,  
*Chairman,*

W. G. FREEMAN,

ADAM SMITH,

GEO. F. HUGGINS,

J. BLACK,

J. J. McLEOD,

EDGAR TRIPP,

*Hon. Secretary.*

14th April, 1915

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### Germany's Dual Offensive.

The critics, who have been telling us that the enemy is suffering the horrors of a siege will not admit that the tremendous efforts he is making on both fronts are signs that he is still formidable. They are the "final convulsions that will mark the end of the present period of comparative immobility" is the new version of the old optimistic theory. It is possible, but not probable. A nation of seventy millions dominated by one spirit and devoting themselves to the pursuit of one ideal in absolute unison, a nation, moreover, with an organisation of unparalleled efficiency, cannot in the nature of things be overcome without a tremendous and protracted struggle. The Germans are entitled to a little soothing syrup in time of war because they made the necessary sacrifices to speak with the enemy in the gate in time of peace. To us, whose slackness precipitated us into a great European conflict unprepared, a dose of pessimism would be a tonic.

### On the Western Front.

North of Ypres the fighting has been very severe, and as a result of the withdrawal of our troops from the poisonous gas area, the British lines have been reformed. That the move has not been entirely to the advantage of the enemy is clear from the check to a German attack on them owing to the heavy artillery of the French farther north, where they are co-operating with the Belgians, taking him in flank. The fighting is as fierce as it was at Neuve Chapelle, and is evidently part of the great spring offensive on both fronts, which has been so long predicted by experts who care more for the truth than for telling the public what it wants to hear.

In the Vosges the Germans claim that they hold the ridge of the Hartmannsweilerkopf, but the French are in sufficient security on the summit that they were able to entertain a representative of the American Associated Press on the spot. From the height of Xon, which they have captured from the enemy north of Pont-à-Mousson, they are bombarding the forts of Saint Blaine, which are on a hill on the right bank of the Moselle, and the most advanced southerly point of the great fortress at Metz.

### The French Success at Carency.

The capture of parts of this village after five days' fighting is the result of a more vigorous offensive than any undertaken by the Allies since they dug themselves in. It is possible that had the front been wider the result would have been even larger, for the wider the front the greater the difficulty of employing reserves with effect. For instance, the smallness of the area contested by the British near Ypres enabled the Germans to bring up large reinforcements, thereby preventing us from continuing our advance, which we might otherwise have done. In the recent offensive north of Arras the French seem

to have taken the lesson to heart, for their front extended for nine or ten miles, and the simultaneous British attack between Bois Grenier and Festubert was of similar extent. The French captured part of the enemy's position near Loos, on the road to that place from Vermelles, of which the Allies made themselves masters last December, carried the fort and Chapel of Notre Dame de Lorette, and continued their advance until they are now by the Arras-Bethune road. Of the approaches to Souchez and parts of Neuville and Carency together with the equally strong position of La Fargette they remain in possession, having carried three, and in places, five lines of entrenchments. But part of the entrenchments near Loos have been recovered by the enemy, who brought up large reinforcements. Had the front been wider, this move might have been impossible. The loss of Carency, when the German line heads back to Arras, will facilitate the French advance on Lens, an important railway centre, to which, also, a network of roads converge.

#### On the Eastern Front.

Here the Germans are renewing the offensive all along the line, and in Western Galicia on a wider front. North of the Niemen, in Courland, a column, chiefly cavalry, has penetrated nearly to Riga. Here the military forces are supported by a flotilla in the Baltic. A second raiding column is operating in the direction of Dunaberg with the object of cutting the Warsaw-Petrograd railway. It is, however, in Western Galicia that the enemy is attacking the Russians in earnest. Having failed to break their line or to outflank it in Poland, the Baltic Province, and in Eastern Galicia, he is once more attempting to hack his way through Western Galicia to the San. Not only is his offensive extremely violent, but it is thoroughly organised. His aim is, of course, to take in the rear the Russian columns, which have advanced into the Carpathians by cutting their communications, check the invasion of Hungary, and bar the road to Silesia. Already the Russians have been compelled to retire from the Beskid Mountains and to fall back on their original lines. That there is depression in Petrograd at this setback is not surprising, where optimism has been as undiscerning as in this country. But, though for the fourth time our Eastern Allies have been obliged to abandon the offensive just when the plain of Hungary seemed to be almost within reach, the situation need not cause serious discouragement as long as they can hold the line of the San. If they had to fall back from that their hold on the Vistula would be jeopardised. But when their reserves were less numerous than they are now they were able to hurt the Germans. So they will to-day.

#### In the Mediterranean.

The operations in the Dardanelles are an experiment on a scale unprecedented in history. If they succeed, too, they will be an example of amphibious warfare more striking than the co-ordination of naval

and military forces, which resulted in the capture of Quebec in 1759, up to now the most perfect example of its kind. The account, so far, is "satisfactory," though there is difficulty in following the exact course of the operations, due, of course, to justifiable official reticence. In spite of heavy artillery fire, wire entanglements, in places fifty yards wide, land mines, deep pits with spikes at the bottom, and stubborn resistance by the Turks when the fighting was at close quarters, landings on five beaches were made simultaneously on the morning of April 25th. At Sedd-el-Bahr the enemy was in such force that, on the sixth beach, the advance was delayed till evening. With splendid steadiness and dash the Allied troops clambered up steep cliffs and rugged slopes in a storm of shells, and dug themselves in at three main points, the British at Cape Teke, Cape Helles, and near Morto Bay, at the southern end of the peninsula; the Australasians on the slopes of Sari Bahr to the north of Gaba Tepe at the neck of the peninsula; and the French on the Asiatic shore at Kum Kale. They all held their ground gamely against desperate counter attacks, while the Army was disembarking in the rear. The next day the British, aided by the gunfire of the Fleet, stormed and captured the position of Sedd-el-Bahr, which was "a labyrinth of caves, ruins, trenches, pits and entanglements." From this point the advance was continued until the Allies were in possession of the plateau commanding Krithia. In the meantime the Australians, who had pushed on with the utmost boldness after landing were almost constantly engaged with the enemy, whose repeated counter attacks they repulsed. When a fresh Turkish division was hurled against Sari Bahr, there was a hot contest in which the Australians and New Zealanders covered themselves with glory, and with the defeat of the enemy, they resumed the offensive. The *Queen Elizabeth* prevented the Turkish warships from intervening, and sank a transport of about 8,000 tons off Mardos, which afterwards went up in flames.

The loss of the battleship *Goliath*, reported on May 13th is a heavy one. She was a sister ship to the *Irresistible* and *Ocean*, which were also sunk in the Dardanelles, but, unlike them, she went down with most of her personnel, an irretrievable loss. She was torpedoed in an attack by a Turkish destroyer while "protecting the flank of the French." What does this mean unless the enemy is able to use his destroyers at the entrance of the Straits on the Asiatic side, surely an unexpected and surprising development. We are further told that E 14, the submarine which navigated the Straits so gallantly in December last, and sank the *Messudieh*, has sunk two Turkish gunboats and a transport.

Our naval casualty list now reaches a total of 9,200.

#### The Channel Gun.

This was the name given to a naval gun, which the enemy installed after considerable effort on a

platform near Dixmude, on which he worked for two months. Its range was no less than twenty-two miles. On the day it first attracted attention it dropped shells on Dunkirk, causing serious damage and loss of life. The second day its bombardment of the town was weaker; since when it has been silent. But, no doubt, it is the forerunner of many. The idea is held in some quarters that the purpose of the gun was diplomatic, to persuade Italy and the Balkan States, who may, or may not, be on the verge of war, that the Germans scored a bigger victory at Ypres than they actually did.

On May 11 Southend, at the mouth of the Thames, was visited by a Zeppelin, which dropped no fewer than 80 bombs within a radius of five miles. The material damage to houses and business premises was considerable, but there was only one death.

### The War on Sea.

The impudent German warning to American citizens that they would enter the war area on a British ship at their own risk had a terrible sequel in the destruction of the *Lusitania* by a submarine eight miles south-west of Kinsale. Though two torpedoes were fired, the first was directed with such skill that it entered her stokehold, causing her to sink in thirty minutes. Consequently there was time to get out only a few of her boats, and out of the ship's company of 2,160 two out of every three perished. The enormity of the crime, by which a great multitude of innocent persons, 150 of whom were Americans, perished, is the culmination of a whole series of outrages on humanity. In England public indignation has broken out in serious anti-German riots all over the country, which have forced the Government to take those measures for the comprehensive internment of enemy aliens that should have been taken when the war began. In the United States opinion is highly inflamed, but it is difficult to see what she can do except to make vain protests to Germany, or ask for worthless guarantees from a Power which rejoices over the crime as if it were a military triumph. There is not even the excuse that the *Lusitania* was an armed merchantman, as, in conformity with a recent American regulation, she carried no armaments, another instance in which the United States interprets international law more to the advantage of the enemy than to the Allies. When the First Lord was asked why the liner was given no naval protection as she neared the danger zone he said that the resources of the Admiralty did not enable them to provide escorts for all passenger and merchant vessels, a tacit admission of the neglect to provide for the patrol of the trade routes while there was yet time.

The opportune statement made by Sir Norman Hill, of the Liverpool and London War Risks Insurance Association, proves that the losses inflicted upon sea-borne commerce since last August, including the loss of the *Lusitania* are relatively small. During that time the value of the vessels kept at sea has been about £150,000,000, of which one-

thirtieth had been destroyed, representing seven shillings per cent. per month. The worth of the cargoes had been a thousand million pounds, of which five-and-a-half million pounds' worth has been lost. The German blockade is still far from exerting that appreciable effect upon British sea-borne commerce of its intention.

Since the enemy occupied Zeebrugge on the Belgian coast he has used that port as a naval base for submarines and other craft. The newest of these are torpedo-boats, which, on May 1st, attacked the trawler *Columbia*, near the *Galloper* Lightship, south-east of Harwich, without hoisting their colours. She was sunk by a torpedo, her assailants being pursued by a division of British destroyers, and, after a brief running fight of about one hour, the German vessels were both sunk. Two German officers and 44 men were rescued from the sea, afterwards callously confessing that they had left a British officer and two seamen down below when they took the leap to save their own lives. Their excuse was that time was short. The same day a German submarine sunk the British destroyer *Recruit*, a vessel of an old type. Thirty-five lives were lost in her, for, when the trawler *Daisy* came up to rescue the drowning men, a torpedo was fired at her compelling her to steam away.

The second destroyer lost during the war, the *Maori*, was mined off the Belgian coast. Unfortunately she was one of the excellent *Tribal* class of oil-fuel ships, dating from 1909. The boat's crew of the *Crusader*, which attempted rescue work, were taken prisoners.

(To be continued.)

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

The last two consignments of fruit from Trinidad and Dominica for our sick and wounded arrived at Liverpool by the steamers *Victoria* and *Oriana*. Both were dealt with by the West India Association of Liverpool, whose secretary, Mr. W. Speed very kindly undertook the local arrangements for their distribution. They comprised 234 cases of fruit and 24 cases of preserves from Trinidad and 33 cases of limes from Dominica, bringing the total number of packages received and distributed to over 5,000 (the figure last published was incorrect). The preserves received by the *Oriana* were sent to the British Red Cross Society, and a letter of thanks from Sir William Garstin for their most welcome gift has been forwarded to the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee.

The crop of oranges having come to an end no further shipments of them can be expected for some months; but with the lime crop now beginning it is probable that the quantity of cases of that refreshing fruit may be increased. In view of the number of wounded now in this country it would be impossible to send over too many.



**IMMIGRATION INTO BRITISH GUIANA.**

The Report of Mr. J. Hampden King, the Immigration Agent General of British Guiana on the East Indian Immigration of that Colony for the year 1913-14 is just to hand. It records that during the year four coolie ships arrived, bringing 1,346 souls, of which 903 were men, 364 women, and 79 children. The generating trouble during the voyages was dysentery, but out of the whole there were only three deaths, and the condition of the immigrants landed was in the case of three of the ships good, and of the fourth very good.

As the result of some discussion as to the advisability of reverting to the recruiting of Madras immigrants, which had been abandoned for some years, it was decided to revert to the Madras Presidency for recruiting purposes, and 64 Tamils and Tchegas from Madras were among the early immigrants. They were all indentured to Plantation Diamond, and the reports received of them had been most favourable. During the year 681 immigrants of which 446 were men, 154 women and the remainder children, returned to India. The value of the remittances and jewellery carried by them amounted to £7,100 1s. 11d.

At the close of the year there 9,114 immigrants under indenture in the Colony. The number of births on the estates was 2,581, and in villages and public institutions 2,709, or at the rate of 3.85 per cent. and 4.23 per cent. per mean population respectively. The proportion of births to total population was 4.05 per cent. The birth rates for 1912-13 and 1911-12 were 3.51 and 2.80 per cent. respectively, and the great improvement noticeable is attributed to the active measures taken in recent years in connection with malaria and ankylostomiasis.

There have been 1,246 deaths on the estates, 1,256 in the villages, and 638 in public institutions. The percentages to the mean population on the estates were: Indentured .94, unindentured 1.44, and children 3.22, in all 1.86 per cent. The death rate for the year 1912-13 was 1.89 per cent., and for 1911-12 2.56 per cent. This favourable condition is attributed to the prophylactic use of quinine on the estates.

The amount at the credit of East Indians in the Post Office Savings Bank was on the 31st of December, 1913, £123,521. There were 131,871 East Indian Immigrants in the Colony on the 31st of March, 1914, of which 66,450 were resident on estates, 57,336 of which were free.

The West Indian Sea Island crop reached its highest figure in 1911, when 6,500 bales of an average weight of 400 lbs. each were exported. In 1912 the crop amounted to 5,250 bales, in 1913 to 5,230 bales, and in 1914 to 4,690 bales.

**TRINIDAD'S OIL INDUSTRY.**

Interviewed by a representative of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR shortly after his return from Trinidad, Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, Consulting Oil Engineer, said that the war had naturally had a depressing effect upon oil prospecting and development operations. The loss of revenue in view of the decreased return from reduced pitch exports and general diminution of trade was reflected in public works expenditure, and the construction of urgently needed roads had again been deferred. "Oil companies have already expended many thousands of pounds on roads without which the properties can only be approached with difficulty, and the transport of machinery is impossible except for a month or two in the year. The Rio Clara-Guayaguayare Road has been traced through but is only serviceable for light transport for a few miles. Near the 11th mile from Rio Clara interesting sections of the oil series are exposed in road sections where the Trinidad Leascholds, United British Oilfields of Trinidad and the Cruse Syndicate hold concessions. On the West of the road near the crest of a sharp anticline is a large mud volcano from which is emitted petroleum inflammable gas and quite a stream of hot sulphur water, the temperature of which cannot be much less than 90°F. On the Continent such a natural spring would be the resort of thousands of rheumatic subjects and a source of revenue to enterprising hotel proprietors. On the East of the road is located the Lizard Spring, one of the largest natural issues of oil and gas that exists in the island. Gas fizzes up from numerous fissures over a wide area providing fuel for a flame several feet in height when ignited. Light crude oil also escapes and collects in pools along the bed of a stream for quite a distance, notwithstanding its periodical washing away by rains. The need of the road for the prospecting and development of this untested and interesting oil region is very urgent as the nature of the work is far too expensive for private enterprise.

"The Trinidad Central Oilfields at Tabaquite and the Venezuela Oil Concessions at Barrackpore continue to produce petrol for local consumption, the American imports having almost ceased in consequence of the abundance of local supplies of equal value. The kerosene market has not yet been seriously attacked owing to the need for better refining methods to obtain a product more nearly approaching the American quality. Several schemes are on foot for exporting oil in bulk. The Government railway has purchased several tank waggons for transporting oil, and others are being purchased by operating companies for conveyance of oils to shipping centres. A pipe line is projected from the Fyzabad Oilfields to Point-a-Pierre where a submarine line will lead oil to tankers. A second submarine pipe line is in hand from Claxton Bay, a few miles North of Point-a-Pierre, and a third is said to be under consideration in the same district; con-

sequently this part of the island, where deep water is obtained at no great distance from the shore, is likely to acquire an importance that may compensate for the low value of the land for agricultural purposes.

"Some disappointment is felt that the Admiralty have not taken more Trinidad oil, or at least relieved stocks which are said to hinder operations at Guapo.

"Nowhere are developments such as to give cause for despondency regarding the future prospects of Trinidad. In nearly all cases persistence has resulted in the successful discovery of oil in commercial quantities where indications were fair; and lack of funds to fulfil too ambitious a project is alone responsible for several promising properties standing idle."

In conclusion, Mr. Beeby Thompson said that during his recent visit he was much struck by the absence of mosquitoes. This, he said, spoke wonders for the efforts of the Sanitary Departments in Port of Spain. For the first time it was possible to sit in comfort on the balcony of the Queen's Park, and not be attacked by mosquitoes. The dry weather was, no doubt, a favourable factor, but on former visits in dry seasons mosquitoes have always been a worry to the newcomer.

### H.M.S. BARBADOS.

In the early days of the war reference was made in these columns to the various vessels which bore the honoured name of Barbados, the only colony in the West Indies over which no foreign flag has ever flown. Though she figured in the January Navy list, among the "auxiliary small craft," it will be a surprise to most readers to learn that there is still a *Barbados* in the Navy. On May 13th the Secretary of the Admiralty made the interesting announcement that H.M.S. *Barbados*, Lieut. Sir James Douville, Bart., R.N., in company with H.M.S. *Columbia*, *Miuria* and *Chirsit*, had been attacked by German torpedo boats. It appears that after the engagement had lasted about a quarter of an hour, the enemy broke off the action. The direction of their retreat was shortly afterwards communicated to British destroyers, which followed and destroyed the torpedo-boats. The *Columbia* was, however, sunk, with the loss of 16 officers and men, only one man (a deck hand) being saved. Her commanding officer, Lieut.-Commander Walter H. Hawthorn, R.N.R., had displayed gallantry and good seamanship on many occasions.

Lieutenant Sir James Douville, *Barbados*, remained at the wheel after the skipper was wounded, personally worked the helm, and generally handled his ship in a seamanlike manner under heavy fire, to avoid being torpedoed. He also took effective measures to call the attention of H.M.S. *Leonidas*, in order to convey to her the information which led to the subsequent destruction of the enemy vessels.

Petty Officer 1st Class Arthur H. Hallett, *Bar-*

*bados*, distinguished himself by the rapid and effective fire of his gun.

It may be of interest in this connection to recall the earlier *Barbados*. The first to bear the name was H.M. Sloop *Barbadoes*, which we find from the Record Office was commanded by Captain John Neal Pleydell Nott, who was appointed to her on September 7th, 1759. Captain Nott was evidently more of a sailor than a scholar if one may judge from the following extracts from his log:—

Aug. 2, 1760. Distant from Barbuda 29 leagues. At 7 saw a sail in the S.W. At 10 hauled down flying jib and let her come up with us.

Aug. 3. At ½ past 3 a.m. ye sloop fired a shott and Houste French Coullours at 4 Bare away After her and Begun to Engage at ½ Past she struck to us sent ye Boat on b'd to shift the Priziers she Prov'd to be a sloop of 6 guns at . . . p.m. made sail with the prize in Company at 4 p.m. Lay too at 7 saw the Island of Descada Bearing 1 E. Dist. 12 Leag. at 10 saw a sail to ye Westward spook her she Prov'd to be a Brigg from Gibraltar.

The *Barbadoes* took part in the capture of Martinique and Havanna in 1753, but was lost in a West Indian hurricane in 1780. In 1804 the merchants of Barbados purchased an enemy prize called *The Brave* and offered her to the Government to be employed at the Island Station under the name of the *Barbados* frigate. "The great and leading motives of this purchase and gift to the Government were," to quote Mr. Jordan, the Island Agent, "unquestionably derived from the purest patriotism and zeal for the public service: more subordinate projects were the particular defence of the Colony, and the general annoyance of the enemy in the Caribbean Sea." Captain Nourse, one of whose descendants is still a Barbados proprietor and member of the West India Committee, was appointed to command the vessel. The *Barbados II.* during the term of her Commission captured the French privateer *Napoleon* 18 guns, *L'Heureux* 12 guns, *La Désirée* 14 guns, a valuable ship from Cayenne, and a Spanish brig, besides recapturing an English Guineaman and an American ship. The Barbadians evinced great regret when it was learnt that the ship was to be put out of Commission and laid up, and the zealous island agent, Mr. Jordan, memorialised the Commissioners of the Admiralty praying that she might be repaired and re-employed. The Navy Board had her re-surveyed; but her defects were so many that she was paid off.

In 1811, however, she was re-fitted at Plymouth, and re-commissioned, the command being given to Captain Bryan Hodgson. She then took part in the blockade of the French coast, and in actions with the French Invasion Flotilla and with French vessels off Barleur, succoured H.M.S. *Hotspur*, while in the following year she captured the American vessel *James Madison* before she was wrecked on Sable Island and became a total loss.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Scething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below :

Bell, Major L. Lambert, Regimental Sergeant, Dominica Defence Force.

Bromley, Captain J. E. M., (eldest son of Mr. John Valentine Bromley, son-in-law of the late Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, of St. Kitts and Antigua), Royal Field Artillery. *At the Front.*

Cotton, Lieut. R. Stapleton, (second son of Col. the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton), Army Service Corps. *At the Dardanelles.*

D'Abadie Louis, (of Trinidad), 2nd Sportsman's Battalion, 23rd Fusiliers.

Downing, Lieut. G. G., Adjutant, Dominica Defence Force.

Eckel, Lieut. C. F., (of Trinidad), 6th Service Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.

Eckel, and Lieut. P., (of Trinidad), Officers Training Corps, Tunbridge Wells.

Eckel, Trooper A. G., (of Trinidad), Life Guards.

Fraser, Captain Duncan, B.H.M.I.V. Troop, British Honduras Defence Force.

Gall, Kenneth S. E., (son of Mr. Gall, of Worthing View Sugar Plantation, Barbados), Honourable Artillery Company, Infantry Section.

Ganzoni, and Lieut. J. C., M.P., (son of Mr. Ganzoni, of C. Czarnikow, Ltd.), The Suffolk Regiment.

Gardner, and Lieut. Alan Spencer, (son of the Rev. Thomas Gardner, Rector of St. Philips, Barbados), 15th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers, (City of London Regiment).

Gomes, and Lieut. Alvaro, (son of Mr. M. Gomes, Demerara), 3rd Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Holmes a Court, Leonard Wyndham Daly, (youngest son of the Hon. Arthur Wyndham Holmes a Court, and grandson of Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Defence Force, Antigua.

Home, Lieut. Henry, (late Hydraulic Engineer, Jamaica), The Royal Engineers.

Johnson, 2nd Lieut. Donald Lawrance, (son of Mr. Hubert L. Johnson, of Barbados), 9th Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Lewis, Private J. H., (son of Mr. J. W. Lewis, of Barbados), The King's Own.

Macdonnell, Lieut. Esmé, (late of the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Trinidad), Lieutenant Interpreter attached to the Army Service Corps.

Napier, and Lieut. William Edward Stirling, (son of the late Mr. E. S. Napier and Mrs. Napier, of Milliken, St. Kitts, and grandson of Sir Robert Milliken Napier, Bart., of Milliken, Renfrewshire), Lothian Border Horse, Dunbar.

Napier, Alexander Douglas, (son of the late Mr. E. S. Napier and Mrs. Napier, of Milliken, St. Kitts, and grandson of Sir Robert Milliken Napier, Bart., of Milliken, Renfrewshire), Army Service Corps, 14th Division, Aldershot.

Randell, Captain A. S., Officer Commanding Dominica Defence Force.

Rose, and Lieut. George Reginald, (nephew of Mr. H. S. Cox, M.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, British Guiana), 12th Essex Regiment.

Saunders, Lieut. E., (son of Dr. Saunders, of Kingston, Jamaica), The Royal Army Service Corps.

Walker, Lieut. H., Dominica Defence Force.

## Wounded.

Arbuthnot, Lieutenant Malcolm A., 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, (brother of Mr. P. S.-M. Arbuthnot, of Messrs. Alston, Arbuthnot and Co.), was attached to the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, and was wounded in the same engagement as that in which his brother Major K. M. Arbuthnot was killed. He was shot through both lungs, and is now in hospital in France.

Davson, Lieut. T. Gordon, (son of the late Sir Henry K. Davson, Chairman of the West India Committee, and of Lady Davson, of the Royal Horse Guards, has, we regret to state, been wounded, and is missing.

## Killed in Action.

MAJOR KENNETH WYNDHAM ARBUTHNOT, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, a regiment which was raised by his great grandfather, who was killed in action on April 25th, was a brother of Mr. P. S.-M. Arbuthnot, of the firm of Messrs. Alston, Arbuthnot & Co. He was 41 years of age, and had served for two years as adjutant with the Volunteers and Territorial Force, and afterwards acted as brigade major to the Gordon Infantry Brigade in the Scottish Command. He took part in the operations in Chitral in 1895, serving with the Relief Force and receiving the medal and clasp, and also served on the Nile Expedition in 1898, taking part in the battle of Khartoum. He was employed with the mounted infantry during the South African War in 1901 and the following year, taking part in operations in the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony. He was mentioned in dispatches, given the brevet of major, and received the medal with five clasps.

CAPTAIN W. A. A. MIDDLETON, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, who was first said to be "missing" and is now reported "killed" on 25th April, was the nephew of Mr. P. S.-M. Arbuthnot, of Messrs. Alston, Arbuthnot and Co., of Major Kenneth W. Arbuthnot, who was killed, and of Lieut. Malcolm A. Arbuthnot, who was wounded in the same engagement.

MR. MAURICE KENNETH FITZARDINGE BERKELEY, who died on May 1st at Bonlogne Hospital, from wounds received in action, was the only son of Mr. Justice M. J. Berkeley, of British Guiana, and formerly of Tobago, St. Vincent, Barbados and Trinidad. He was educated at Bradfield and Pembroke College, Cambridge, and was in Canada at the outbreak of war. He joined the 5th Battery, 2nd Brigade, of the Canadian Artillery, and was with his regiment when he was fatally wounded. The funeral took place from 173, Kennington Road, London, on May 12th, with full military honours.

MR. EVAN STUART CAMERON, who, we regret to state, was killed in action near St. Julien on April 24th, was the eldest of the three surviving sons of His Excellency Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, and lately Administrator of St. Vincent, and of Mrs. Cameron, a daughter of the late Mr. Robert Macintosh Isaacs, LL.D., of New South Wales. Like his two brothers, who have joined the Cameron Highlanders, he was born in Grand Turk. He settled in Canada three years ago, and on the outbreak of war joined the 14th Battalion of the Royal Montreal Regiment which formed part of the 1st Canadian contingent.

MR. J. L. HAMPTON, who was in the London Rifle Brigade, was, we regret to say, shot on the morning of May 3rd by a German sniper while doing sentry duty. He had served in the South African War and was a member of the Stock Exchange. MR. WALTER HAMPTON, who was also in the London Rifle Brigade, was wounded some weeks ago while putting up wire entanglements, and died of wounds May 14th. Both were sons of Mr. Hampton, Chairman of Messrs. James Nourse & Co., who had no less than four sons serving with His Majesty's Forces.

MAJOR GEORGE FISON MULLER, of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, who has been killed at the front was the son-in-law of Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., late Attorney-General of Hong Kong, whose father, the late Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., was proprietor of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua.

SECOND LIEUT. C. A. R. TENNANT, who, we regret to state, was killed near Ypres on May 9th, was the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tennant, of Orford House, Ugley, Essex. He was educated at Eton and afterwards entered the firm of C. Tennant, Sons, and Co. (Limited), 9, Mincing Lane, E. C. For some years he had been in the Montreal branch of the firm, but at the outbreak of war he returned to England and enlisted in the London Scottish. In January he was given a commission in the 3rd Dorsetshire Regiment and left for France in March, attached to the 2nd Devonshire Regiment.

#### Died of Wounds.

CAPTAIN ASHLEY H. ARBUTHNOT, 12th London Regiment, (The Rangers) (T.), who died in hospital at Tréport, on May 15th, from wounds received on May 4th, aged 30, was the only son of Mr. Herbert Arbuthnot, of Messrs. Arbuthnot, Latham and Co., of which firm he was a partner. He was educated at Eton and New College, Oxford, and rowed in the Eton eight in 1903. He was intimately connected with much social and religious work in London, and was in command of the Polytechnic Company when he received his wounds.

CAPTAIN (Temporary Major) EDWARD CHARLES TALBOT, second son of Major and Mrs. Frank Talbot, and son-in-law of Sir William Gibbons, K.C.B., died from wounds received in action on April 20th. 47th Sikhs.

#### Alterations and Corrections.

Berkeley, 2nd Lieut. Thomas Berkeley Hardman, (son of the late Humphrey George Hardman Berkeley, late of Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), has been transferred from the Middlesex Regiment to the 3rd Sussex Regiment.

Gibbons, 2nd Lieut. Charles Coulthurst, (son of Colonel F. F. Gibbons, and nephew of Mr. Kenrick Gibbons), Army Service Corps.

Hinkson, Sergeant A. G., (of Barbados), 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

Leggatt, Gordon Scott, (son-in-law of Mr. John Valentine Bromley, and cousin of Mr. T. DuBuisson, of Henkel, DuBuisson and Co.), 11th Division, R.F.A., Leeds.

Peterkin, 2nd Lieut. E. C., (son of Mr. R. P. Peterkin, of Barbados), The Middlesex Regiment. Has been promoted at the front.

#### OBITUARY.

##### SIR ERNEST AUGUSTUS NORTHCOTE.

We regret to state that Sir Ernest Augustus Northcote died in London on Thursday, May 13th.

Born in 1850, the third son of the late Mr. Stafford Henry Northcote, of London, he was educated at Westminster and Trinity, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1875. He was appointed stipendiary magistrate of British Guiana in 1882, and Puisne Judge of Jamaica four years later, and was Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago from 1903 to 1908, being knighted in 1905. He was a member of the West India Committee, director of Stafford Northcote and Co. (Limited), a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, and a member of the governing body of Westminster School. Sir Ernest married in 1895 the daughter of Dr. I. W. Anderson, formerly of Kingston, Jamaica, who survives him.

##### THE HON. ALAN DREDGE.

We regret to state that the Hon. Alan Dredge and Mrs. Dredge lost their lives in the sinking of the *Lusitania* on Friday, May 7th.

The Hon. Alan and Mrs. Dredge were on their way home from Belize, British Honduras, when they met their end through the dastardly act of the Germans in sinking a

passenger vessel without any warning—an act which has been condemned in every civilized country. The Hon. Alan Dredge first went out to British Honduras in June, 1910, to make a report for the Belize Estate and Produce Company, and in the following year he was made manager of the company. In June, 1911, he was appointed Honorary Correspondent to the West India Committee, and his letters, which have been published in the CIRCULAR from time to time, showed the keen interest which he took in the colony and his broad minded views on public affairs.

#### AT WESTMINSTER.

##### The Immature Spirit Bill.

In the House of Commons on May 11th, the Attorney-General moved for leave to introduce a Bill to restrict the sale of immature spirits. He said that since the increased duties on certain intoxicating liquors were proposed ten days before, discussions had taken place with the trade with a view to seeing whether the restrictions necessary in the national interest could be secured without additional taxation. The Immature Spirits (Restriction) Bill and the Defence of the Realm Bill were the result. Much of the mischief which had to be stopped was due to the consumption of raw new spirits, of which the Bill proposed to prevent the sale. The main provision would lay down that the minimum age should be three years. That applied to both British and foreign spirits, but in the case of imported spirits, where it was shown that they had remained abroad for a period after distillation, that period would count towards the three years before which the spirits would be available for consumption. In order to give the trade time in which to adjust itself to the new conditions it was proposed during the next twelve months that spirit might be taken out of warehouse as soon as it was two years old, though in order to equalise the position as between such spirit and other spirit kept in bond for three years a small duty of 1s. per gallon would be added. Gin and certain foreign liquors which were not kept for any length of time before being used for consumption would be allowed to be available before the three years elapsed subject to paying an extra duty of 1s. 6d. when they were under two years old. An exception would be made in the case of spirit used for industrial purposes which would be free of duty, and also in the case of spirit delivered to licensed rectifiers, manufacturing chemists, etc. In view of these provisions it was not proposed to persist in the additional taxes, which, he added later, must remain in force until the Bill came into force.

The Bill was considered in Committee yesterday, when several speeches were devoted to run, and it passed its third reading to-day.

##### Germany's Sugar Prohibition.

On May 12th, in reply to Mr. Joynton Hicks, M.P., Mr. McKenna gave the following dates on which the prohibition of exports of sugar were enforced and removed in Germany as far as known.

31st July, 1914.—Export of sugar prohibited.  
17th Sept., 1914.—Export permitted under licence.  
5th Oct., 1914.—Export permitted up to 1,200,000 tons.  
27th Oct., 1914.—Permission to export up to 1,200,000 tons cancelled.  
6th Feb., 1915.—Export under licence terminated, and prohibition made absolute.

##### The Protection of Home Distillers.

On May 13th, in reply to Mr. Kellaway, Mr. Acland said that the number of gallons of spirits imported from our colonies in 1914 was 4,819,000 gallons, at rates of duty

varying from 15s. 1d. per proof gallon to £1 5s. 1d. per liquid gallon, according to the nature of the spirits. The duty on spirits produced in this country was 14s. 9d. per proof gallon.

**Protection for the Confectioners.**

On the same date Mr. McKenna, replying to Mr. Charles Price, who asked what further concession could be made to the confectioners now that the supply of Mauritius crystals was becoming exhausted [which the confectioners have been allowed to buy at cost price], said that he hoped to announce the decision of the Royal Commission at an early date.

**The Operations of the Royal Sugar Commission.**

In a written answer to Mr. Steel Maitland on May 11th, Mr. McKenna gave the following figures with reference to sugar purchases of the sugar commission up to March 13th, 1915.

**Raw Sugar.**

1914 Crop.				
Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Price.	Conditions.
		tons		
1914				
Aug.				
7	Cuba	31,000	3 1/2c.	c. & f. New York.
8	"	13,600	3 1/2c.	f.o.b.
	"		3 1/2c.	c. & f. New York.
	"		3 1/2c.	f.o.b.
8	"	7,400	14/9	"
8	Java	20,000	12/6	"
10	"	20,000	14/-	"
10	Cuba	5,000	20/-	c.i.f. bought afloat
11	Java	20,000	15/-	f.o.b.
12	"	7,500	16/-	c. and f.
12	Antigua	320	20/-	f.l.
12	Domingo, etc.	3,489	19/-	In bond.
12	Beet	4,355	18/6 (88°)	"
13	Java	10,000	16/-	f.o.b.
13	"	18,500	15/-	"
13	"	6,000	16/-	"
14	"	30,000	17/-	"
14	"	1,000	18/-	c.i.f.
14	"	4,000	16/6	f.o.b.
15	"	3,000	16/6	"
17	"	10,000	16/6	"
17	"	2,000	16/6	"
17	Peru	6,800	19/3	c.i.f.
18	Java	1,500	18/-	"
19	"	6,000	17/-	f.o.b.
19	"	30,000	17/6	"
19	"	2,000	17/-	"
19	"	15,000	17/6	"
20	"	500	19/-	c.i.f.
20	"	500	19/6	"
20	"	1,000	17/3	f.o.b.
20	"	20,000	17/9	"
20	Peru	2,470	19/-	c.i.f.
20	"	127	15/-	"
20	Demerara	25,000	18/6	c. and f.
21	"	10,000	17/-	f.o.b.
21	Peru	1,500	20/-	f.l.
21	Java	14,000	17/9	f.o.b.
21	"	2,000	17/3	"
21	Denmark	2,000	19/- (88°)	c.i.f.
21	Trinidad	3,000	17/-	f.o.b.
24	Java	2,500	17/6	"
24	"	20,000	17/6	"
24	"	6,000	17/6	"
24	"	5,000	17/6	"
24	Peru	500	20/-	f.l.
25	Java	1,000	20/6	c.i.f.
25	Demerara	20,000	17/-	f.o.b.
26	"	1,500	17/-	"

Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity tons.	Price.	Conditions.
26	Java	1,000	18/8 1/2	c.i.f.
26	"	500	18/2 1/2	"
29	"	7,000	17/6	f.o.b.
26	"	6,000	17/6	"
26	"	1,000	17/6	"
27	Peru	1,300	19/6	c.i.f.
27	"	850	16/- (89°)	f.o.b.
28	"	400	20/-	"
Sept				
2	Denmark	2,000	18/6 (88°)	"
2	"	130	17/6 (88°)	"
2	Java	6,000	19/6	"
2	Mozambique	260	19/6	"
2	Java	1,500	17/6	f.o.b.
3	Denmark	2,100	18/6 (88°)	c.i.f.
3	"	150	17/6 (88°)	"
3	Java	200	20/-	"
3	Denmark	1,100	19/- (88°)	"
3	Fiji	6,500	19/6	"
4	Peru	500	20/-	"
4	"	300	15/- (89°)	"
7	Mozambique	205	19/6	"
7	Java	350	20/-	"
9	Denmark	500	19/6 (88°)	"
9	Java	250	20/-	"
10	Denmark	200	17/- (75°)	"
Oct.				
3	Brazil	1,000	17/6	"
10	"	500	17/6	"
10	Cuba	2,900	17/7 c.	f.o.b.
23	Denmark	2,100	14/- (88°)	c.i.f.

[Total 1915 Crop ... 463,856 tons]  
 [Total to March 13th ... 828,206 .. ]

**White Sugar.**

1914 Crop.				
Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Price.	Conditions.
Aug.				
11	Java	500	20/-	c.i.f.
13	"	30,000	17/6	f.o.b.
13	"	6,000	17/6	"
13	"	3,500	17/6	"
13	Mauritius	900	20/6	c.i.f.
14	Penang	300	20/-	"
14	Java	200	20/-	"
14	"	20,000	18/6	f.o.b.
15	"	3,000	18/-	"
17	"	10,000	18/-	"
18	Mauritius	2,900	18/-	"
19	"	500	21/-	c.i.f.
19	Java	5,000	19/-	f.o.b.
19	"	20,000	19/-	"
19	"	4,000	18/6	"
19	"	12,000	18/6	"
19	Mauritius	2,000	21/-	c.i.f.
20	"	6,500	20/9	"
20	Java	8,000	19/3	f.o.b.
20	"	3,000	18/9	"
21	"	7,000	19/3	"
21	"	6,000	19/3	"
24	"	5,000	19/-	"
24	"	20,000	19/-	"
24	"	6,000	19/-	"
24	"	10,000	19/-	"
25	"	6,000	19/-	"
25	Mauritius	100,000	17/9	"
25	"	23,000	17/9	"
26	Java	1,000	18/6	"
26	"	7,000	19/-	"
26	"	6,000	18/6	"
26	"	2,000	19/-	"
27	Mauritius	10,500	17/9	"

Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity tons.	Price.	Conditions.
Sept. 2	Java ...	2,500	19/-	Lo b.
5	America ...	9,000 1,500	6.03 c.	..
9	Mauritius ...	29,000	17/9	..
Oct 2	America ...	750	5 00 c.	..
	Holland cubes	20,050	Various.	..
	[Total 1914 Crop White Sugar ...			410,000 tons]
	1915 Crop ...			50,000 ..
	[Total of all sugars to March 13th			1,288,206 .. ]

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR FREDERIC MAXWELL, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and Lady Maxwell, left for New York en route to Antigua on May 8th.

In a speech at Rawtenstall on May 14th, Mr. Harcourt said that the capture of Constantinople would set free for European, and especially British consumption, Russian sugar, and millions of bushels of Russian wheat.

SIR ALEXANDER FREEMAN KING, K.C.B., who has been elected to a seat on the Board of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company was General Secretary to the General Post Office from 1911 until last year when he retired.

DR. CYRIL HORSFORD, son of the late Hon. S. L. Horsford, of St. Kitts, will on June 3rd, lead to the altar at St. Paul's, Portman Square, Ella Arnold, god-daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Macdonald Brown. Dr. Horsford is a distinguished throat specialist.

SIR HENRY HESKETH BELL, Governor of the Leeward Islands, who arrived recently in London from Antigua has successfully undergone rather a serious operation in a nursing home. He will, however, it is feared be *hors de combat* for at least five or six weeks.

THE death is announced of Mr. William Wellington Sicard, a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church in the West Indies. Born in 1839 in St. Bartholomew's when it was under the Swedish flag, he was one of the few who opposed the transfer of the island to France in 1877; but, in spite of this, the chivalrous French, recognising his sterling merits, made him a member of the Municipal Council.

THE largest oil combustion engine yet constructed has been made by Messrs. Sulzer Bros., of Winterthur, Switzerland. It is of the two-cycle, single acting Diesel type, with six cylinders, 29.5 in. by 39.4 in., and on trials 4,500 horse power was devel-

oped. According to the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts, the engine was built for Messrs. Harland and Wolff, of Belfast, for power and light generation in their shops.

THE Barbados Motor Ambulance, which is now in France has been supplemented by an ambulance presented to the Red Cross Society by the Trinidad and Tobago branch. Both are doing splendid work. It will be recalled that an illustration of the Barbados car which was purchased by a fund raised by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, who has also collected £200 towards its maintenance, appeared in the CIRCULAR of January 26th (No. 426). It is hoped to publish an illustration of the Trinidad Ambulance in next issue.

THE Premier of Canada is to move an Address to the King in the Dominion Parliament for the amendment of the British North America Act by increasing the number of Senators from 87 to 96, the object being to give nine new Senators to the new Western Provinces. It is also proposed to seek powers to appoint eight additional Senators in the case of a conflict between the two Houses and to give six Senators to Newfoundland in the event of her joining a Confederation, instead of four as provided for originally.

MR. ARTHUR HINTON, one of the Examiners of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, revisited Jamaica on the 29th March, he having examined candidates in that colony in 1812. This year there were 401 candidates, 66 in theory and 335 in practice. Of this number only four failed to take the examinations. There were centres at Spanish Town (15 entries), Brown's Town (16), Westwood (18), Anchovy (16), Hampton (31), Mandeville (25), Kingston (214). Mr. Hinton left the colony by the *Carillo* on Saturday, the 24th April.

COMMENTING on a recent leading article which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of February 23rd, advocating a preference in the United Kingdom on British produced sugar, the Editor of *The Maritime Merchant* (Halifax, N.S.), writes: "The proposal if adopted by the Imperial Government, would make for an enormous development of sugar production in the British West Indies, which in turn would have a very important influence on Canadian trade. The doubling, trebling, or quadrupling of the sugar output of the British West Indies, would naturally increase their purchasing capacity materially, and as Canada is now in a position to supply their needs in the way of food-stuffs, and as in all the important colonies save one, she enjoys special tariff privileges, she would be sure to find herself greatly benefited by the improved condition of the West India people as a result of a British tariff preference on colonial sugar."

## THE LONDON LETTER.

ONE of the scandals of the war has been the immunity with which the German waiter has been able not only to move about with perfect freedom, but to retain lucrative employment. Evidence grows, however, that his day, as also that of his compatriots in this country, will now be a very short one. The story of the brutal treatment of British prisoners abroad and the impression caused by the sinking of the *Lusitania* have intensified public feeling against enemy aliens, and the long delayed action of the Government in the direction of internment and repatriation has come as a general relief to all except the hooligans who have recently utilised the occasion to gratify their predatory propensities.

DESPITE the enormous outlay on the war, the trade outlook is on the whole satisfactory. Returns for April show an increase as regards exports of some two millions as compared with March. Imports are down by comparison with the previous month, but set against the returns for the previous year an increase of 12 millions is disclosed. This is extremely satisfactory; but it must not be forgotten that much of the increase has come from special trading resulting from the war, and high prices.

ENCOURAGEMENT for the future of British trade has been derived from the Exhibition at Islington of British manufactured goods. Hundreds of stalls set forth the products of our mills and works, and many firms have booked orders which have more than justified their participation in the display. The Exhibition was particularly apposite at this juncture. Widely advertised it attracted universal attention. It has provided an additional spur to patriotism as well as increased our knowledge of the manufacturing potentialities of our own country.

THE funds of the Red Cross Society are being increased from another novel source. Regimental plate is being exhibited on the premises of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Co., in Regent Street. This plate recalls some of the most stirring annals of the British Army and Navy—not least those associated with the West Indies. Old silver displayed by the Royal Greenwich Hospital includes a pair of silver cups presented by residents of Bermuda to officers of H.M.S. *Endymion* in 1815 after the defeat and capture of the United States frigate *President*.

ONE of the pictures in the Royal Academy which is attracting general attention is a portrait of Mr. Bruce Stephens, by the President, Sir E. J. Poynter, R.A. The many friends of the late Mr. Stephens, were they able to visit the Academy, would see in it a living representation of one who occupied such an important place in West Indian commercial life. The Academy also contains a portrait of Mr. Bruce

Stephens' brother, Mr. J. Walker Stephens, by Mr. William Hogsdail, which is also excellent.

THE Press has devoted much space to the recent report of the Royal Mail Company on the last year's working, and to the absence of a dividend for the Ordinary shareholders. No steamship line has suffered so much disturbance of its business by reason of the war, and the feeling is one of sympathy. It is notable that following upon Sir Owen Philipps' statement at the annual meeting that there was brighter hope for the future, Royal Mail stock rose.

QUESTIONS asked in Parliament regarding the employment of coloured troops are significant of the changed feeling of the times. The presence in Europe of many thousands of India's fighting men will destroy the prejudice hitherto entertained against the marshalling of such forces on merely racial grounds. The sons of Africa, animated by equal patriotism and blest with finer physique, constitute reserves well worthy the attention of the authorities. Certainly much wider use might be made of the black men of the West Indies whose ancestors achieved great deeds in Napoleonic times.

LADY PHILIPPS, wife of Sir Owen Philipps, is Vice-President of a new Anti-German Union, which is receiving powerful support. The idea is to eliminate German influence from our national life in all its aspects—social, commercial and political. The idea promises to appeal very successfully to all classes of our people, who are being provided almost daily with fresh reasons of resentment against Germany.

MENTION has recently been made in the Press of our old friend Sir Gerald Strickland. Sir Gerald, formerly of the Leeward Islands, is now governing New South Wales. Apart from his connection, on the maternal side, with Malta, Sir Gerald's family has been seated for centuries past at Sizergh in Westmorland. It is now announced that he has purchased outstanding life interests in the Sizergh and Sedbergh Estates in Westmorland and Yorkshire entailed on him by the late Mr. Walter Charles Strickland.

THE deepest sympathy of our readers will be extended to Mr. Edward J. Cameron, Governor of the Gambia, and Mrs. Cameron, on the death in action of their eldest surviving son, Mr. Evan Stuart Cameron, of the 14th Canadian Battalion Royal Montreal Regiment. Mr. Cameron, who was only 27, was killed near St. Julien on April 24th. The friends of the late Sir Cuthbert Quilter Bart., are mourning the death of his second son, Lieut.-Colonel John Arthur Cuthbert Quilter, late of the Grenadier Guards, holding a Command in the Royal Naval Division, who has been killed at the Dardanelles.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

A RECIPE for an efficient spray for clearing coconut trees of caterpillar is given in the *Agricultural Bulletin* of the Federated Malay States. 1½ lbs. of lead arsenate paste, equivalent to about 1 lb. of lead arsenate, is mixed with sixty gallons of water; 10 lbs. of slaked lime may with advantage be added, as this increases the covering power of the mixture, and prevents any soluble arsenic which may be present from burning the foliage. All the leaves should be sprayed as evenly and fully as possible, and spraying should cease as soon as any tendency to drip is observed. Once the spray has dried on the leaf it is very adhesive, retaining its toxic properties for weeks.

\* \* \*

HITHERTO the use of lime and chalk has been interchangeable in the treatment of "sour" soils. In the Report on the Rothamsted Experiment Station, however, Dr. Russell brings forward the interesting fact that lime is different in its action to chalk with these soils. Lime is a partial sterilising agent, chalk is not. Lime begins by depressing bacterial numbers and protozoa; later on it is converted into chalk and bacterial numbers begin to rise with production of ammonia in the usual way. This distinction affords a satisfactory explanation of the apparent discrepancies observed in practice with the use of lime and chalk.

THE results of some investigation as to the effect of sugar on the digestion of nitrogen have been published in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Biological Society of Paris. In experiments with pigs it was found that, with a mixed diet in which the carbohydrate was given in the form of cassava, the daily increase in weight was 667 grms. per head; whereas when sugar in the form of Jerusalem artichokes was substituted for the starch of the cassava, the daily gain was only 595 grms. per head. The conclusion drawn from these results, coupled with other data collected in the course of the experiments, was that sugar diminishes the utilisation of nitrogen as food.

\* \* \*

THE subject of the protozoa in the soil in relation to its fertility is an important one. The best of soils heavily charged with these foes to their bacterial energy become comparatively sterile until the bacteria have been destroyed by partial sterilization of the soil. Messrs. Cunningham and Lohnis have lately taken the matter in hand and obtained some interesting results from their investigations. They find that the death temperature of the active forms of flagellates is 118°F., of the cysts, 161°F.; of the active form of ciliates, 109°F., of the cysts, 161°F.; of the active forms of amoebæ, 118°F., of the cysts, 161°F.; the death point of the cyst form being the same in each case.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Danube* arrived at Tilbury early on Monday morning, May 17th, after rather an exciting voyage up the Channel. The passengers, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Mewburn Garnett, heard the Zeppelin bombs falling on Ramsgate, and actually saw a small vessel blown up. The following notes are extracted from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

#### ANTIGUA—Favourable weather for the canes.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, APRIL 19th.—During the past fortnight the weather has been very peculiar, there having been very high winds with a low barometer, followed by a general downpour of rain, between the 26th and 27th instant varying from 2 inches to windward to 5 to 7 inches. On the night of the 25th we experienced a sharp shock of earthquake. The local belief that rain would follow within 24 hours was fully established. Altogether April has been a favourable month for the young canes, but difficult for muscovado sugar. Crops are being taken off rapidly, and the improved price will help to counterbalance the want of tonnage which would otherwise have disastrous results. During the absence of His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell, Hon. T. A. V. Best is Acting Governor, Mr. W. H. Whyham, Acting Colonial Secretary, and Mr. R. K. K. Dyett, Acting Magistrate. A very happy wedding was celebrated at St. George's on the 15th inst., when Miss Goodwin ("Eimmie"), daughter of Mr. R. Goodwin, manager of North Sound Estate, married Mr. T. Foote, engineer of factory, son of the Hon. J. Foote. The church was finely decorated by Mr. Isidore Dyett, and the guests were entertained at the residence of the father and mother of the bride, where the usual toasts were given. The presents were many and beautiful, and a large number of guests was present.

#### BARBADOS—The Advantage of Modern Appliances.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., MAY 4th.—We are having constant rains which are greatly interfering with reaping, and have caused the cane juice to deteriorate. Factories burning megass straight from the mill are not much kept back by the rains, but the lessening of the sugar in the cane juice is a serious matter for them, and will probably cause the owners to reduce the price at present paid for canes.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—The Sea Defences Question.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MAY 1st.—Some good rains fell on April 26th, and generally speaking the weather is favourable. A special meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association was held on the 26th ult. to consider the question of sea defence. There was a good attendance of managers of estates on the sea coasts, and the general feeling expressed was that the work done by the Public Works Department had not been successful. After considerable discussion on several points, notably as to the angle at which groynes should be laid out, it was decided to invite the Sea Defence Commissioners to give their views to the Association as to the policy which should be adopted for each district. The matter will then be taken up by the Government. His Excellency Sir Walter Jaggerton, visited Barbice on April 17th, returning on the 22nd ult. The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Company, which



suspended operations after the outbreak of war has resumed work on its grants. The Planters' Association has addressed the Government regarding the importance of the resumption of East Indian immigration.

#### **DOMINICA—The New Settlers represented at last.**

Mr. E. A. AGAR, APRIL 30th.—Mr. G. W. Peurice has been appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council in succession to Mr. Everington, and elected a member of the Federal Council. Those Englishmen who settled in the island some 12 or 15 years ago and took up Crown lands have thus at last secured representation. On December 31 the deposits in the Savings Bank amounted to £18,278, the number of depositors being 957. Of these only a third had less than £1 to their credit, so the bank is indeed a "People's Bank." April has been a month of record rain as the first three months were of drought. A few landslides have taken place on the roads, but little real damage has been done. The Roseau water supply was cut off for a few hours owing to a rock smashing a part of the main, but the damage was repaired quickly. In the meantime the lime trees are flowering again in most places, and we should get a good second crop.

#### **MONTERRAT—Very favourable seasons.**

Mr. K. P. PENCHOEN, APRIL 30th. Favourable rains have fallen during the past fortnight and the weather in April has been most seasonable throughout. The rainfall has been well distributed though it varied from 6 inches on estates to Leeward to 18 inches in the middle of the island. Opportunities for shipping cotton are still lacking though the whole crop has been ginned for some time. Much satisfaction has been expressed at the announcement that a minimum price would be guaranteed for the West Indian cotton crop of 1915-16.

[We have to congratulate Mr. K. P. Penchoen cordially on the birth to him of a son on April 5th, to which he, modestly, does not refer. ED.]

#### **NEVIS The Value of Sea Island cotton.**

Mr. E. WILLIAMS, APRIL 30th.—Copious showers have fallen during the month and have saved the situation for planters. No less than 7 inches fell round Richmond Lodge in the month as compared with 3 inches for April, 1914. Though much Nevis cotton was ginned and shipped from St. Kitts, the latter island gets the credit for it, and the price for Nevis cotton rules 25 per cent. lower than that of St. Kitts, which is not encouraging. The Cotton Traffic Amendment Ordinance, which was passed by the Legislative Council in November, 1914, now makes it compulsory for the name of the island in which the cotton is grown to be marked on each bale.

#### **ST. KITTS—Exceptionally heavy rains.**

Mr. E. J. SHELFORD, APRIL 29th.—The rains continue, and we are experiencing much unusual weather for this season of the year. A showery Sunday (April 18th) was followed by very heavy rains during the night, the Cayon District getting 6 inches and over, and the Sandypoint and Basseterre Districts from 3 to 4 inches. Considerable damage was done to the factory line, cane carriage being impracticable for a week. This respite was welcome to planters on many estates as all available labour had to be employed repairing washes in the cane cultivation and roads. The public roads are getting in very bad order in many places, the Public Works Department being hampered for the want of funds. Some rainfall for April to date—Barridge's 20.68; Moliueux 23.59; Brotherson's 9.00; West Farm 6.05; Farm Estate 10.60; Botanic Station 8.75.

We have had three earthquake shocks this week—the first on Monday night—26th—at 11.5 p.m. being sharp and prolonged. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. have altered their policy and the Canadian steamers are now accepting freight offered them. I deeply regret to have to report the loss of another of our members here. Mr. G. B. F. Duncau died at 2 p.m. yesterday from pneumonia. He had just undergone a serious operation for blood-poisoning in New York and landed here on Sunday last desperately ill. While in a weak condition there he must have contracted the disease which has had such a sad termination. He leaves a widow and two young children with whom we deeply sympathize. He was an enthusiastic volunteer, and C.O. of the C. Company of the Defence Force which since August last he had brought to a high state of efficiency.

#### **ST. LUCIA—The New War Taxation.**

HON. GEORGE S. HUDSON, APRIL 30th.—The weather has been extremely wet. We have had probably the wettest April on record following the driest March recorded for 25 years or more. Although some 20 inches of rain have fallen this month it is fortunate that beyond the inevitable setback to sugar grinding there is very little damage from floods or slides to report. Limes seem to have benefited by it, and cacao flowering promises early pickings in September. His Excellency the Governor conferred informally with the Legislative Council this week regarding the necessary war taxation. Cacao was severely punished with 4s. per bag export duty, sugar escaped comparatively lightly with 5s. per ton. It is somewhat curious that in Trinidad exactly the opposite occurred, sugar being penalised and cacao escaping lightly. No raise in income tax is contemplated. Coal escaped entirely. A super tax on imports of 10 per cent. will be imposed, and the duties on flour and tobacco raised. There is also a possibility of a postage stamp war tax of one halfpenny per letter being imposed. All these measures are ostensibly for one year only, and the Finance Committee is to recommend permanent taxation. His Excellency suggested economies in the official staff, being also in favour of restricting general expenditure during the present crisis, and in these matters I believe he is firmly supported by public opinion. A petition from the Dennery district asking that the coasting steamer should call twice a week at Dennery appeared to interest His Excellency favourably, and when finances improve I believe we shall find in him a strong supporter of roads, and other improvements to the colony. The coaling trade which since the war had fallen off considerably has lately started to improve. All medically fit males between 18 and 45 years old are being called to the colours in France from Martinique and Guadeloupe, irrespective of position or colour. This fact brings things home to the British colonies out here that our own Government have not commenced to touch the fringe of the British reserve of manhood. An interesting case is now being heard by the Royal Court in Castries. Two tramp steamers in succession ran into a French warship stationed outside the Castries harbour in the early months of the war, and I believe a third tramp steamer missed colliding with her by a very narrow margin, although she was quite out of the fairway. The previous port of all the three steamers was Pernambuco. I expect that is about as much as the Censor will allow me to say.

#### **ST. VINCENT—The present high freight rates.**

Mr. W. N. SANDS, MAY 1st.—During the past fortnight we have experienced very unusual weather, heavy rains, contrary winds and heavy sea swells. Some damage has been done to jetties, roads and lands in various parts of the colony, but this is not of a serious nature except in the

case of fields badly scoured out. Meetings of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and Cotton Growers' Association and the Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association were held on the 28th instant to discuss the present high freight rates for cotton and arrowroot. These are nearly 200 per cent. and 100 per cent. respectively above the normal, or about 1½d. per lb. on cotton and ¾d. per lb. on arrowroot. The arrowroot growers have resolved to raise the minimum price for arrowroot by ¾d. per lb. Low prices and low returns, combined with high freights, are bearing very hard on producers here. Mr. Murray is due to leave for St. Lucia on the 20th inst.

#### TOBAGO—The erratic mail service.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, APRIL 28th.—The mails are very erratic, and many business people are complaining of the non-arrival of their letters. Since last mail we have had daily showers which have cleared the air and freshened up vegetation. The East Indian labourers are planting corn and potatoes which leads me to hope that they may be induced to settle permanently in the island, which has many attractions for them, notably in the abundance of streams and running water which they prefer to the ponds on the sugar estates. The cacao crop is holding out better than expected but will soon come to an end. The Leeward sugar making is progressing. On most estates coco-nuts are interplanted with canes on the Metayer system. We have still large tracts of land available for sugar growing and there is no reason why the industry should not be continued; if the Home Government will only give an assurance that it will not have to compete with cheap German beet. Coco-nuts promise to become an important item of export, and there is a rumour that a large coco-nut oil and fibre factory is to be erected to Leeward, which might make the planters independent of the American market. Messrs. Smith Bros., and Co., are building a branch of their Trinidad Bonanza in Scarborough, an indication of their confidence in the future of Tobago. The Royal Mail Co. have just taken larger premises on the sea front and the town is brightening up generally. Some wax candles from the *Karlsruhe* were washed ashore at Spey Side.

#### TRINIDAD—The Government and Penny Postage.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MAY 3rd.—It should have been mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce sent in a unanimous protest against the admission of petrol at a duty equivalent to the excise duty on the local article, thus affording to the new industry no protection other than ocean freight and charges. This action on the part of the Government was, in the opinion of the Chamber not only inconsistent, having regard to the preferential treatment accorded to some other industries, but calculated to destroy the confidence of investors and to harm a new industry upon which vast sums had been expended without so far having yielded any return in the way of dividend. I should be glad for this to be recorded. It is understood that the officers' dependents fund will benefit about £700 from Ye Olde English Fayre and the subscriptions received in connection with it. At a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 23rd, Mr. Adam Smith asked whether the Government intended taking any steps to introduce penny postage with the United States. The reply was that the matter had been carefully considered, and the Secretary of State and the Post Office Department, Washington, had been informed that this colony is not prepared to deal with the proposal at the present time, but will take it up again when conditions become normal. "The estimated loss would be £921

per annum which the colony cannot afford to incur at present. The Governor had asked for the views of the Postmaster-General in London, and was waiting a reply." Thus we advertise to the world our poverty as compared with Barbados and the Leeward Islands. We are contented to spend the sum of £20,000 in mail subsidies, but not an extra 5 per cent. on the wonderful boon of penny postage! Needless to say that in this as in most important matters of late, the Chamber of Commerce is in complete disagreement with the Executive.

A public meeting was held the other evening at the Prince's Building under the auspices of the Trinidad Breeders' Association, at which the Governor was presented with a flag in which the colours of France, Russia and Belgium were combined with those of the United Kingdom, the whole being symbolic of the union of the Allies. There was a very large and representative attendance. Patriotic speeches were delivered, in all of which the part played by the horse in war was a prominent feature. The Vice-Consul for France, M. Paul Serre, made a stirring address, whilst the Hon. Secretary of the Association, Mr. Cipriani, delighted the audience with an effort which rose something beyond the level of a speech on "The Influence of the Thoroughbred in War." Nothing said by any man in public here for a long time has so impressed those who had the fortune to listen. A "silver collection" resulted in a substantial sum for the benefit of the Blue Cross Fund.

After the long drought, we have been having most welcome rain. It has brought great relief to anxious planters, to whom a fourth exceptionally dry season would have been something of a calamity. The whole country, dried up and dust ridden but a short time ago, is once more green and fresh and beautiful.

Last Saturday afternoon Trinidad Society found its way to Tacarigua where a Fête Champêtre for a charitable purpose, was held in the beautiful grounds of Beaulieu, wherein now reside Mr. and Mrs. William Greig, of Cedros coco-nut fame. Beaulieu is in the centre of the English park-like Savannah of the Orange Grove Estate, one of the splendid properties of the Burnleys in days gone by. This for some years it was occupied by "Johnny" Cummings, the one time merchant prince, whose manners were often as rough as his heart was soft and generous, and then by one more recently known to us all, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, whose open, lavish hospitality to his friends will always be remembered. Once more it is worthily tenanted; and amidst charming surroundings, on a perfect afternoon, a large company, including the Government House party, found plenty to entertain and amuse them, the little ones being specially provided for. Besides the usual attractions of such occasions some scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" were rendered with exceptional merit by a bevy of fair young girls and children whose training for their respective parts reflects great credit on whoever was responsible. The performance was in the open under the shade of a wide-spreading Saman tree, with skillfully arranged shrubbery below, and the whole was very picturesque. Miss Harrigan's Titania was most winsome, Miss D. Greig presented a strikingly handsome Oberon, whilst her sister gave a bright, light and charming impersonation of Puck. Miss K. Bushie and the other fairies looked and acted up to their parts, and the group of children goblins brought the house, or the open-air, down. The whole performance was scenic and dressed perfectly. There is a lot of talent in the Trinidad youth, and when, as on this occasion, much beauty is added success, is and was assured. Mrs. W. Greig is to be heartily congratulated and thanked for a very pleasant afternoon's enjoyment.

**BIRTH.**

**Mackintosh.**—On the 16th May, at 41, Horton Street, Kensington, W., the wife of Charles Mackintosh, M.D., of a son.

**MARRIAGE.**

**Savill-Loscombe.**—On the 16th April, at the Register Office, Folkestone, and subsequently at St. Michael's Church, Chester Square, S.W., by the Rev. J. Gough McCornick, Vicar, Hon. Chaplain to the King, Edwin Lydall Savill, 4th South Staffordshire Regiment, eldest son of Edwin Savill, Chobham, Surrey, to Marjorie Kate Russell, only child of Colonel Arthur Russell Loscombe, 9th South Staffordshire Regiment, and formerly of the 1st West India Regiment.

**DEATHS.**

**Northcote.**—On the 13th May, at 34, De Vere Gardens, W., Sir Ernest A. Northcote, aged 65, late Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, third son of the late Stafford Henry Northcote, of 120, Belgrave Road, S.W. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, to-day at 2.30.

**Weiting.**—On the 26th April, 1915, at Sea View, Parade Street, Kingston, Jamaica, Ruby, the dearly beloved wife of Carl F. Weiting, aged 33 years.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.****The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**

At the Annual Meeting of May 12th, Sir Owen Philipps, said that during the 12 years in which he had been Chairman the Company had been making steady progress and he was able to state last year that it was in a very sound financial position. Much had happened in the last twelve months, some companies, notably those owning tramp steamers did fairly well in 1914 and were earning large profits and some liner companies had also earned reasonable profits, but the Royal Mail had had to bear the full burden of assisting the country without receiving compensating advantages. He laid stress on the disadvantages of the removal from their home port at Southampton, where they had a large office with their engineering works, laundry, etc., with a total shore staff of no fewer than 1,400. They had been forced to use Liverpool and London, where they had many difficulties to contend with. He claimed that the policy of the Directors had stood the test. The Company would not have been in a better position to-day if more progressive measures had not been adopted. They had decided to write off full depreciation as usual, and owing to the size of the freight it was the largest amount written off in the Company's history. The actual amount paid for war insurance premiums in the last five months of 1914 amount to £85,000. On the top of this came an enormous falling off in revenue from passenger traffic of all kinds, and the setback in South America. Referring to the Panama Canal Sir Owen Philipps said that it was too soon to judge the effect it would have on the United States. The Government had fixed the duty at such a high figure as to retard development on the Pacific Coast of America. Regarding West Indian mail services, Sir Owen Philipps said that this had been carried on in spite of the war with regularity, only two sailings having been cancelled. The increased cost of maintaining this service had been very considerable, and they were in communication with the Postmaster-General and the Colonial Office, and he trusted it might be possible to arrive at some solution of the difficulty of carrying on the service during the war, either by reducing the service somewhat or by the Government contributing to the extra cost caused by the war. The Inter-colonial mail services were also being carried on at a loss, as there had been very few people travelling, and, of course, there had been no tourists since the war began. As to the Canada-West Indies mail service, he desired to express their appreciation of the way the Dominion Govern-

ment had met them in the various difficulties caused by the war. The revenue of the Canada-West Indies mail service was improving, and he believed that the policy of the Canadian Government in this connection would bear good fruit, as it was developing the trade between the Dominion of Canada and our West Indian Colonies. Dealing with the policy of arming liners, he said that though they had been much criticised for fitting 4.7 guns, lent by the Admiralty to their mail and intermediate steamers trading with the Argentine, not one of them had been interfered with. The chartering arrangement of the Admiralty during the war had proved businesslike and efficient, and had been conducted with due regard to the nation's interest. After touching on meat and meat freight, Sir Owen Philipps mentioned that 1,094 of the employees of the company were now serving with His Majesty's Forces, and he concluded his speech by paying a tribute to the patriotism of the staff and moving the adoption of the report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williamson and carried unanimously.

**The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.**

The accounts for the half year ended December 31st last, show that the amount to credit of revenue was £49,935 2s. 1d. against £38,699 0s. 11d. for the corresponding half-year of 1913, and the expenses £31,251 15s. 6d. against £25,629 16s. 4d. The result is, therefore, a balance of £18,683 6s. 7d. (as against £13,069 4s. 7d.), to which is added £1,825 2s. 5d. interest on investments and £922 0s. 1d. brought forward from last account, making an available total of £21,430 9s. 1d. (as against £18,090 15s. 9d.). The Directors propose that this amount be applied as follows: Dividend 6s. per share on First Preference Shares (£10,368 18s.), the same on the Second Preference Shares (£1,400 14s.) and Dividend of 9d. per share (free of income tax) on the Ordinary shares, absorbing £3,312 0s. 9d., leaving a balance of £6,348 16s. 4d. to be carried forward. For the corresponding period in 1913 1s. per share was paid on the Ordinary Stock, leaving £1,905 2s. 11d. to be carried forward. In their report the directors express their regret at the death of Sir John Cameron Lamb, C.B., C.M.G., who had been a director since 1906. They add that they have elected Sir Alexander Freeman King, K.C.B., to a seat on the board. They go on to say that the traffic receipts for the six months, taken as a whole, show an increase. While on the one hand the receipts in August and September were materially benefited as a result of the war in Europe, there was a great falling off in the months of October, November and December, owing to the reduction in rates consequent upon the carrying out of the new Agreement with the Imperial, Canadian and Colonial Governments, as well as to the continued competition at Porto Rico. At the same time the pressure of war conditions has necessitated a continuous day and night service at the company's stations, involving a greatly increased expenditure. The cost of maintenance of cables was practically the same as in the corresponding period of last year. As in the case of most other companies, the investments in respect of Reserve Funds have considerably depreciated, viz., to the extent of about £15,000. The directors consider that the present circumstances render it inadvisable to make any specific provision for this depreciation.

Mr. Walter Bishop Kingsford, presiding at the 76th Ordinary General Meeting on May 12th, said that some part of the increased expenditure shown by the accounts was of a permanent nature, but in certain items they hoped to be able to effect economies when peace returned. The strict but necessary censorship which since last August had been in force at most of the company's stations, and the partial prohibition of the use of codes throughout the West Indies, had very much hampered business, and had so greatly disturbed their normal working conditions as to cause the directors some anxiety as to their probable future effect upon the profits of the company, which were already adversely affected by the reductions in rates which came into force on October 1. The growth in the volume of the traffic gave little reason to hope that the lower rates would be compensated for by new business—at all events, while

the restrictions referred to continued in force. Since the war began they had been required, and were still required, to keep their stations open day and night, thus causing the company much extra expenditure, and subjecting their operating staff to very severe strain. Great praise was due to their clerks for their loyal and willing service. He concluded by moving a resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the dividends.

Mr. Harry W. Birks seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The retiring director and auditors having been re-elected, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff.

**The Cuba Submarine Telegraph Co., Ltd.**

Presiding at the annual meeting on May 5th, Mr. George Keith said that the business for the past year had practically held its own. The message receipts fell off considerably during the first six months owing to the increased competition and the less active state of trade, but the improvement shown in July and the large increase owing to the war in August and September compensated for the falling off in the previous months. The reduction of rates to the British West Indies on October 1st, led to a decrease in October and November, which was followed by an increase in December. Traffic receipts during the year showed a decrease of £317 and the total revenue amounted to £38,244, or £246 less than in 1913. There was, however, a large increase of expenditure owing to through communication having been kept open night and day since the beginning of the war, and to the cost of cable repairs in shallow waters. Dividends of 10 per cent. on the Preference shares and 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares were declared.

ended April 21st—Port Antonio, 15th to 16th "Fair"; 17th "Rain"; 18th to 20th "Fair"; 21st "Rain". Kingston, 15th to 16th "Fair"; 17th to 20th "Fine"; 21st "Fair". Week ended 25th April—Port Antonio 21st to 27th "Rain"; 28th "Fair." Kingston 21st to 23rd "Fine"; 24th to 28th "Rain."

**THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.**

The Board of Education of the Bahamas, through His Excellency the Hon. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., who is the chairman when Colonial Secretary, have ordered twelve copies of the West India Committee's Map of the West Indies, mounted on rollers and varnished, for use in schools in the colony. The map has also been adopted by Education Authorities in several of the West Indian colonies, and its use in the Government schools, for which it is admirably suited, seems likely to become general.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

Latest Quotations.		PRICES
		May 17
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	85
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1915	94
4 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	96 1/2
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1924	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
The Colonial Bank ...		11
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	100
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	93 sd
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	100
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
1 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	100
1 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	100
1 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares) ...	100
1 %	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid) ...	100
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ...	100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	100
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
1/6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	100
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref	100
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd "	100
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	100

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Oriana (Commander F. E. Kite), Liverpool, May 2nd:—**

Rev. F. F. Bracey	Mr Fleming	Mr. & Mrs. E. F. Nicholls
Lt.-Col. J. H. Collins	Miss Farrow	Mr. W. O. Newsam
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Miss Garcia	Mr. A. C. O'Dowd
Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. A. S. Gardner	Mrs. O'Reilly
Mr. D. Johnson	Mr. Thomas Grant	Mr. J. O'Leary
Mr. P. P. Rudder	Mr. G. George Halstead	Miss Sarah Palma
Mr. H. D'Esterre	Mr. D. Harvey	Mrs. Pogson
Spooner	Mr. John Hall	Miss Player
Mr. A. Heby Thomson	Mrs. Havelock	Dr. J. K. Reid
Hon. F. H. Watkins	Mr. A. M. Hart	Mr. T. J. Roy
I.S.O.	Mr. S. R. Ireland	Mr. J. E. Ross
Mrs. Jackson	Mrs. Jefferson	Mr. L. A. Radley
Mr. Robert Adam	Mr. Wm. T. King	Mrs. W. Sidley
Mr. Hysolito Aroyo	Mr. H. E. Knowles	Mr. R. Simpson
Mrs. Helges	Mr. Wm. Kilpatrick	Mr. J. St. Clair
Mr. B. C. Bell	Mrs. E. K. Lane	Mr. J. D. Smith
Mrs. A. V. Board	Mr. H. T. Leonard	Mr. J. G. Smith
Miss J. E. Board	Mr. R. Leonard	Miss Smith
Mr. George Brunton	Mr. Henry Lockhart	Mrs. P. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Butterworth	Mr. R. W. May	Mr. Colou Smart
Mr. P. Colquhoun	Mr. and Mrs. McKay	Mr. S. C. Thorne
Miss Cunningham	Mr. A. Mendes	Mr. W. Thurlow
Mr. Wm. Cuddeford	Miss Alice Mendes	Mr. J. Tully
Mr. J. Chandler	Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Miller	Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Whitty
Mr. G. Cooper	Mr. Thomas Morton	Miss M. L. Wilton
Mr. E. E. Fale	Mr. P. K. Marbeson	Rev. & Mrs. Wade
Mr. D. Fraser	Mr. H. D. Macdonald	Mr. T. Wright
Mr. H. D. Fletcher	Mr. & Mrs. H. Nation	
Mrs. Francisco		

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

British Guiana (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), May 5th, "Weather is favourable for growing crop." (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co.), May 8th, "Heavy rains." (Demerara Co., Ltd.), May 14th, "Weather favourable." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), May 15th, "Weather wet." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per P.S.N. Victoria, May 20th:—**

Mrs. A. M. I. Harford	Miss Gladys Norton	Mrs. M. Rodrigues
Miss Harford	Miss F. I. Bell	Mr. E. Pereira
Miss M. C. Roxburgh	Mr. Wm. Smith	Mr. G. V. Hegau

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Danube, June 2nd:—**

Mrs. E. B. Thomas	Mr. H. A. d'Auguiet.
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**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. J. J. Lipscombe
Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. A. S. Kemahan
H. E. Sir H. Hesketh	Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. C. Railton
Dell, R.C.M.C.	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Rev. R. Bracey	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. W. F. Samuels
Mr. A. Campbell	His Honour Leslie Jarvis	Mr. W. Smith
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. D. L. Johnson	Hon. F. H. Watkins
Mr. F. J. Evans		I.S.O.

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. P. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE**—Remains unchanged at 5 per cent. as from August 8th. War Loan 9½. Consols 66½.

**SUGAR** An interesting feature of the fortnight has been the publication of the details of the dealings of the Sugar Commission up to the 13th of March last, given by Mr. McKenna in the House of Commons in reply to a question by Mr. Steel-Maitland. These show that 1,238,806 tons of sugar had been bought by the British Government up to that date since the 7th of August. Of this, 828,206 tons were raw and 460,600 tons white. The figures are especially interesting as showing that the alleged purchases of Cuban sugar in the early days of the Commission did not take place. It will be remembered that as much as 250,000 tons was at one time mentioned as having been purchased at that time, and as recently as the 29th of last month Messrs. Willett and Gray gave the figures as 140,000 tons. It now turns out to have been 59,300 tons. The Java figures were more correct, 506,507 tons having been bought as against a reported 500,000 tons. Of this 302,801 tons were for refining and 203,700 for direct consumption. The purchases of American granulated were only 11,520 tons as against the 60,000 tons reported from the other side.

The detail figures are only given for the 1914 purchases which all took place between the 7th of August and the 23rd of October. It will be seen by reference to another part of our columns that supplies were drawn from the British colonies as well as from the large producing countries of Java, Cuba, Peru, San Domingo, Mozambique, and the Continent of Europe. Unfortunately the 1915 purchases up to March are not given in detail. These amounted to 304,350 tons of raw, and 50,000 tons of white, and bring up the entire purchases to the 1,238,806 tons given above. Since that date the Government have purchased, according to Messrs. Willett and Gray, 75,000 tons of Cubans, and Java new crop sugar to a reported extent of 300,000 tons. This brings the entire purchases known to date to 1,513,806 tons, equal to a year's supply at the recent rate of consumption. To this has to be added the sugar entered and contracted for privately prior to the prohibition on the 21st of October.

The stocks in hand in the United Kingdom on the 30th April were 343,000 tons. With the Cuban sugar undelivered at that date, 107,000 tons, and the Javas contracted for, 300,000 tons, 750,000 tons of Government sugar are visible or five months' consumption, without taking into account purchases of smaller lots of sugar from various sources, such as the 20,000 tons of Argentine sugar recently bought. The consumption of the United Kingdom for April reached the extremely high figure of 182,000 tons, due to extra sugar being taken out of bond from fear of an increased duty being imposed in the Budget.

The Java crop has started, and last estimates mention a crop of well over 1,300,000 tons as being probable. In Cuba it is a race between the factories and the weather. On the 10th inst. 166 factories were at work as against 172 for the previous week. This number is largely in excess of last year's figures. The weather, however, shows every indication of the usual breaking up at the end of May. Under date April 26th Mr. Hinely states that the crop was 222,000 tons behind that of last year. As, however, there seems plenty of cane on the ground, as more factories are continuing work than was the case last year it looks very much as if the shortage of the crop was likely to be less than was expected a short time back.

In the London market crystallised West Indian has been disposed of at slightly lower rates. On the 7th of May 3,554 bags of Jamaica crystallised sold at 25s. to 26s. On the 11th 6,739 bags of crystallised were offered for sale, but only 249 bags, good yellow small grain, were sold, fetching 25s. 6d. to 26s. On the 13th 160 tons of grocery crystallised met with fair demand, 1,200 bags St. Lucia selling at 26s. 3d., and 300 bags Antigua at 26s. The quotation for crystallised may be taken as 26s. 3d. for medium qualities. Tate's cubes are selling at 3s.; refiners first class granulated at 28s.; and Java white crystals at 26s. 9d.

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Apr. 22, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Apr. 10, 1915	1914
Sugar ... ..	27,536	20,092 Tons.	113	133 Tons.
Molasses ... ..		627 Puns.		
Rum ... ..	1,501,893	1,109,280 Proof Galls.	226,570	425,628 Galls.
Molasses, &c. ... ..	627	783 Tons.		
Cocoa ... ..	25,922	23,357 lbs.	1,625,008	2,304,176 lbs.
Loose ... ..	40,052	117,528 "	3,159,964	4,417,983 "
Coco-nuts ... ..	697,376	695,886 No.	7,687,170	7,932,516 No.
Oranges ... ..			939,950	1,650,350 "
Bananas ... ..			1,536,772	3,415,670 Siems.
Colton ... ..			5,031	3,592 lbs.
Pimento ... ..			17,628	39,303 Cwts.
Ginger ... ..			1,703	7,225 "
Honey ... ..			4,627	... Galls.
Eyewoods ... ..			5,426	66,157 Tons.
Diamonds ... ..	19,003	19,285 orts.		
Rice ... ..		3,405 Carats.		
Halat ... ..	7,998,048	6,971,527 lbs.		
Rubber ... ..	451,100	273,051 "		
Timber ... ..	825			
Lumber ... ..	37,524	37,403 cubic ft.		
Lime (hydrate of) ... ..	10,374	121,418 ft.		
	3,358	... lbs.		
			Arwrvt. 1,431,427	1,446,323 lbs.
			Cacao 62,880	77,835
			Cotton 82,177	172,338 "
			Seed 112,621	424,056 "

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to May 3, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Apr. 29, 1915	1914
Sugar ... ..	14,671	19,580 Tons.	9,478	11,006 Tons.
Molasses ... ..	776	1,443 Puns.	8,785	32,115 Puns.
Rum ... ..	1,545	340		
Coco-nuts ... ..	2,670,775	4,833,185 No.		
Asphalt ... ..	16,763	48,207 Tons.		
Manjak ... ..	103	69		
Bitters ... ..	4,601	6,176 Cases.		
Oil ... ..	10,240	4,480 lbs.		
Crude Petrol ... ..	100,447	5,235,793 Galls.		
Cacao ... ..	29,964,000	41,279,000 lbs.		
Cotton ... ..				
Seed ... ..				
Copra ... ..	8,317	2,429 Baks.		
Spice ... ..				
Kola ... ..				

	Grenada.	
	Oct. 1 to Apr. 13, 1914/15	1913/14
Cacao ... ..	9,080,640	10,120,320 lbs.
... ..	35	551 Bales
... ..	790	1,767 Baks.
... ..	96	105 "
... ..	715,925	668,945 lbs.
... ..	3,160	2,900 "

	Dominica.	
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914.	1913.
Cacao ... ..	093,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes ... ..	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw ... ..	329,875	336,728 galls.
... .. concentrated	148,179	158,974 "
... .. Citrate of ... ..	5,191	4,753 cwt.
Lime Oil, distilled ... ..	3,981	5,370 galls.
... .. equalled ... ..	1,619	1,305 "
Hardwood ... ..	82,131	77,903 feet.
Bananas ... ..	3,780	4,266 steins.
Cocconuts ... ..	554,549	448,747 No.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

The statistics of West India Sugar from Jan. 1st to May 8th are as follows:—

	1913	1914	1915	1912	1911	Tons
Imports	12,988	14,014	15,523	11,466	17,226	
Deliveries	13,768	9,715	9,191	10,556	11,519	..
Stock,	5,229	16,904	8,171	5,379	10,067	..

The New York market has been fairly steady. The \$4.84 price for duty paid 96° quoted in our last summary, fell to \$4.77 on the 3rd inst., and after remaining at this figure for a few days sank to \$4.64 on the 10th. The market subsequently became stronger, and under the usual fortnightly stimulus of European buyings, rose to \$4.89 on the 12th and on the 17th stood at the same figure. Granulated has remained steady at \$5.90. Sales of 20,000 tons granulated and 65,000 tons Cubans "for the Allies" were reported from New York on the 13th, the price of the latter being \$3.60 and \$3.70 f.o.b. Cuba.

**RUM**—The Inmatre Spirits (Restriction) Bill, which has taken the place of the threatened spirit prohibition and prohibitory duties has passed the Committee stage, and it now goes up for the third reading. The Bill provides that no spirit shall be taken out of bond until it has been warehoused for three years. In the case of rum the privilege is granted for one year, of taking rum out of bond after nine months' warehousing, and in the negotiations between the West India Committee and the Board of Customs it was clearly understood that this privilege would be extended when the time comes until sufficient stocks are built up. It stands to reason that with an industry which only keeps the amount of one year's consumption on hand, a three years' restriction would be unworkable, and contrary to the interests of both producer and consumer. By reason of the unsettled state of affairs as regards the Spirit Bill, there has been little or nothing doing in the rum market, and prices remain unaltered at 2s. 3d. for Demerara, and 3s. for ordinary Jamaica.

Stocks in London, May 8th:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Puns
Jamaica	3,664	6,621	5,438	7,412	8,843	
Demerara	8,571	10,772	8,062	7,548	6,591	..
Total, all kinds	18,833	24,465	21,037	22,389	24,742	..

**CACAO** The Board of Trade returns for April again show the continued increase in the imports of cacao, 18,350,702 lbs. having come in for April as against 18,088,812 lbs. for the corresponding month of last year. The imports for the current year have amounted to 62,357,003 lbs. for the four months, with 16,762,071 lbs. exported, or a net import of 45,594,932 lbs. For January-April of last year, 45,568,315 lbs. were imported, and 5,928,984 lbs. exported, giving a net import of 39,639,331 lbs. While a considerable greater home consumption is indicated by these figures, a much greater export is also shown.

At auction sales in London on the 11th instant, 8,663 bags were offered. There was little demand, but prices were slightly harder. 2,011 bags were sold at auction and after, including 86 bags of Trinidad at 90s. to 92s. 6d., 201 bags of Grenada at 86s., 11 bags of Dominica at 82s., 123 bags common Jamaica at 80s. to 80s. 6d., and 98 bags St. Lucia, common to fine, at 80s. to 84s. West Indians will note that fair Arriba sold at 104s. At auction sale to-day West Indian was in demand. Trinidad easier. Grenada steady. 2,012 bags of Trinidad cacao—the gift of Trinidad to the Army and Navy—sold at 86s. 6d. to 87s.

The stocks in London May 8th were as follows:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Bags.
Trinidad	5,872	8,448	7,828	7,935	5,726	
Grenada	5,214	14,939	8,128	7,936	20,179	..
Total, all kinds	56,250	103,985	87,262	116,019	131,940	..

The stocks in the United Kingdom as a whole on the 30th of April were 28,374,000 lbs. as against 35,502,000 lbs. in 1914, and 26,491,000 lbs. in 1913.

**COTTON**—The imports of all kinds of raw cotton for the four months January to April, amounted to 1,049,240,900 lbs., as against 910,517,400 lbs. for the same months last year, the exports were 140,722,000 lbs., as against 88,871,800 last year. These figures point to an increasing use of raw cotton in this country. As regards West Indian cotton, 100 to 150 bales have been sold, chiefly St. Kitts, at 16d. to 16½d., and Barbados at 14½d. There is still very little demand, and the industry is much disorganised owing to the war. The prices guaranteed by the Fine Spinners for the crop of 1915-16 is 18. 6d. per lb. for St. Vincent and St. Kitts and 18. 3d. for the other islands. It should be noted, however, that these are only minimum prices.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—**Lime Oil**—Distilled is dearer owing to extreme scarcity, 4s. has been paid for a very small parcel. Handpressed is quiet with a nominal value of 6s. 6d. **Lime Juice**—Very little raw is offering, and values remain unchanged at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. for Jamaica, and 3s. 1½d. for fair Dominica. There is no business to report in Concentrated. **Citrate of Limes** may be quoted at £25 per pipe c.i.f. New York. There is still a complete absence of **Fresh Limes** from the market though enquiries for the fruit are being constantly received.

**SPICES** **Nutmegs**—There has been a fair demand for West Indian at previous rates. 100's/80's may be quoted at 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's 4½d. to 4½d.; and 140's/120's at 4½d. to 4½d. West Indian **Mace** has been steady at unchanged prices. Good to fine is valued at 2s. to 2s. 1½d., red to good at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 1½d., and broken at 9d. to 1s. 3d. **Pepper**—Little or no demand, value 2½d.

**ARROWROOT**—Very little business has been done barely 100 barrels having been sold during the fortnight. Quotations remain unchanged. The imports for the current year up to the 30th April were 6,750 barrels and 30 boxes as against 6,823 barrels for 1914, and the stocks on the 30th April were 7,636 barrels and 27 boxes as against 8,885 barrels and 109 boxes in 1914.

**COPRA**—No business whatever in West Indian copra, and the market is generally very dull. Quotation £25.

**RUBBER**—There has been a good and steady demand for all brands, but especially for crepe, and prices have materially advanced. Fine plantation may now be quoted at 2s. 4½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 4½d.; fine hard Para 2s. 6½d.; fine soft Para, 2s. 4d.; Castilloa sheet 2s. 1d. and Castilloa scrap 1s. 7d.

**BALATA** has advanced in price in sympathy with rubber, and is quoted at 2s. 4½d.

**HONEY**—Some improvement. Jamaica may be quoted at 31s. to 41s.

**TIMBER**—There is no change to chronicle. Jamaica **Logwood** is quoted at £4 10s. to £5 5s. per ton. Honduras **Cedar** at 4d. to 5½d. per foot. **Lignum Vitæ** at £3 to £7 and **Satinwood** at 9d. to 2s. per foot. British Guiana **Greenheart** £11 to £13 per ton.

**PETROLEUM** Prices unchanged. American, 8½d.; Water White, 9½d. per gallon.

May 18th, 1915.

ALGERNON B. ASPINALL.

In a recent edition of the *Bulletin* of the United States Department of Agriculture, Mr. W. H. Ross reviews the position of radio-active substances in relation to agriculture, and comes to the conclusion that in botanical research and possibly in greenhouse practice when the results may justify the expense, the radio-elements may prove of considerable value; but that when consideration is taken of the scarcity of these elements, it does not appear that they can have any practical application for fertilizing purposes.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6417 CENTRAL. 15, SPRETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.,  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

May 31st, 1915.

### WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS FOR THE WAR.

**W**E are glad to be able to announce that Government has now consented to receive contingents from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad for service at the front. In the early stages of the war the offer of men from the West Indies was declined on the ground that they would be best serving their country by assisting in the defence of their own shores. But this was when predatory German cruisers were still afloat in the Western Atlantic. Since then the conditions have altered, and, the risks of a raid on the islands or Guiana being remote, the earlier decision which caused bitter disappointment in the West Indies has been reversed. Nothing was needed to stimulate the loyalty which, as MR. CAMPBELL put it at the annual meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, permeates all classes, all creeds and all races in the West Indies; but we may feel certain that the news of the acceptance of the proffered West Indian contingents will have given rise to the most intense enthusiasm through our oldest group of colonies, whose residents have been longing to "do their bit" in the great struggle in which we are now engaged.

### SOME MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

**I**F MR. HARCOURT who now leaves the Colonial Office, in consequence of the formation of a Coalition Cabinet, will not go down to history as one

of our greatest Colonial Secretaries, he will long be remembered for his urbanity and tact and for the manner in which he upheld the traditions of a Department which MR. CHAMBERLAIN made one of the most important in the State. For the welfare of the smaller colonies of the Empire he was always particularly solicitous, and we are mindful of his action in recognising the constitutional status of Bermuda, the Bahamas and Barbados when his attention was called by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to the fact that it had been wrongly described in a recent issue of the Colonial Regulations. It will, again, be recalled that it was during his tenure of office that several important developments in connection with the West Indies took place, the most noteworthy being the consummation of the arrangement for closer trade between those colonies and Canada, for which the way was paved by the appointment of the Royal Commission, under the Chairmanship of LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, during the regime of his predecessor, LORD CREWE. It fell, too, to him to disentangle the knotty problem of mail communication which had been almost in a state of chaos through the absence of a contract service, and to help to give the West Indies cheaper cable communication from which so much is hoped. West Indians will be pleased that MR. HARCOURT is not leaving the Cabinet altogether, and that the knowledge which he has gained of Imperial affairs will be at the disposal of his colleagues, with whom he will still sit as First Commissioner of Works—a post which he held before he espoused the colonies. LORD ISLINGTON, after filling the position of Under Secretary of State for the Colonies for less than ten months, also leaves the Colonial Office. As SIR JOHN DICKSON-POYNDR he was a member of the Royal Commission to which we have already referred, and in that capacity visited nearly every part of the West Indies. In the separate report which he wrote after his appointment to be Governor of New Zealand, he showed a masterly knowledge of the general West Indian situation, and though we were not always in accord with his views on several questions which, during the political truce, must remain taboo, his conduct of the business of the department to which he was appointed after his retirement from Australasia showed that though he was a party politician he was no pedantic theorist. The retention of LORD ISLINGTON in the Ministry will also be welcomed in West Indian circles, for he has the advantage of first hand experience of the West Indies, while in the matter of East Indian immigration he may be able materially to help the islands and British Guiana for which, we are sure, he will

still have an affection. Turning now to the new appointments, we believe that we shall be voicing the views of all West Indians when we state that these may be regarded as eminently satisfactory. To begin with, it says much for the honour and esteem in which the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies is now held, that in a Coalition Ministry the Leader of the Opposition should have been selected to fill that post. We confidently believe that Mr. BONAR LAW will fill it with distinction. Like his predecessor Mr. CHAMBERLAIN he was a business man before he embraced a political career, and that fact alone should engender confidence. Then we must not forget that he is a Canadian, having been born in New Brunswick, a Province which has always been closely identified with West Indian trade. We do not intend to encroach on party politics, but we cannot refrain from recalling the fact that it was on a question closely concerning the West Indies—that of sugar we need hardly say—that Mr. BONAR LAW made the brilliant speech in the House of Commons that first brought him into prominence in Parliament and public life in 1902. In Mr. A. D. STEEL MAITLAND, who succeeds LORD ISLINGTON as Under Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. BONAR LAW will have a colleague with whom he has already been accustomed to work, for Mr. STEEL MAITLAND has been Chairman of the Unionist Party organisation since 1911. This is the first occasion on which he has held high office, but his brilliant attainments at Oxford, where he gained the coveted "double first," and held the important posts of Treasurer and President of the Oxford Union, besides rowing against Cambridge, brought him into prominence as a man who was bound to make his mark in public life.

#### ARTESIAN WELLS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

REFERENCE has been made from time to time in these columns to the success which has attended the boring of deep wells in British Guiana. Shortly before SIR WALTER EGERTON assumed the Government of the colony a well-boring plant had been imported, and since then His Excellency has devoted much attention to the provision of an artesian well supply of water for the city of Georgetown, and the towns and villages throughout the country. It may be remembered that SIR WALTER'S arrival gave rise to many hopes and much expectation of development of the colony's resources, he being credited, on the strength of his achievements elsewhere, with being a Governor of marked constructive abilities. Unfortunately the exigencies of the great war have to a large extent restricted his energies in that direction, his scheme for the construction of a hinterland railway having been entirely suspended for the present, and, generally speaking, his constructive opportunities have, necessarily, been limited; indeed, the creation of a Government steamer service is one of the few schemes that he has been able to carry

through, and even that, which has been most adversely criticised in many quarters, carries with it some element of "destructiveness" as opposed to "constructiveness," as viewed from a strictly local standpoint. However, the Governor has accomplished some good work in artesian well borings, especially since the substitution of a rotary drill plant introduced by Mr. BUCK, the present Director of Public Works, which materially facilitates boring operations. The first deep well bored was at the D'Urban Park, immediately to the east of the city of Georgetown, where at the end of July, 1913, a copious supply of excellent water was tapped at a depth of 560 feet, but probably having its source of supply amongst sands and rock crevices some 300 feet deeper, as reported on at the time by PROFESSOR HARRISON, the quantity discharged from the 8 in. boring being estimated at 1,250,000 gallons per day. This discharge, however, was subsequently lessened considerably after the successful boring of a second well on the line of Water Street, near the steamer stelling.

Other wells were successfully bored at Parika, New Amsterdam, Nabacklis, Plaisance and Lichfield in 1914 and the present year. In all cases the water obtained is pure, of good potable quality and slightly ferruginous, but this is remedied by exposure to the atmosphere. From the varying depth of the bed-rock, it may be assumed that the dip of the stratum is inclined in the direction, approximately, from west to east; and it is thought that the underground water storage available is at its maximum capacity in the neighbourhood of Georgetown. This fact has prompted the Governor, on the report of the Director of Public Works, to recommend to the Georgetown Corporation the adoption of an important artesian water supply scheme for the city, estimated to cost \$131,344, which, it is hoped, will have far-reaching effects on the general health of the city, entirely abolishing the mosquito-breeding rain-water storage tanks and vats now in general use for drinking and all domestic purposes, the abolition of which was one of SIR ROBERT BOYCE'S principal recommendations in the course of his visit of inspection to British Guiana in 1909. It is, however, intended to retain command of the Lamaha Canal as a supplementary supply for fire extinguishing purposes, should the necessity arise under exceptional circumstances. Whilst the scheme, which is outlined elsewhere in the present issue, has much to recommend it from a public health point of view, it might be advisable to be assured beforehand of the constancy of supply, as experience in other countries goes to prove that the supply from deep artesian borings varies considerably under apparently similar conditions, especially where the number of borings is increased within a certain area. These variations are due to local differences in the state of the stratum, or to the existence of faults in the rock structure, liable to arrest the underground flow; and although deep wells sunk under favourable conditions in water-bearing strata often yield an abundant supply



of water, there is generally a limit to the extension of this source of supply, depending as it does on the amount of rain falling on the area draining into the permeable stratum and serving to replenish these deep seated reservoirs. The boring, therefore, of several new wells within a limited area may tend to divert some of the flow from previous borings; and by lowering the level of saturation of the permeable stratum by the increased draw on its supply may thereby necessitate a deeper boring. Indeed, already, we understand some such result has been experienced in the flow from the first and second wells sunk in Georgetown, which are some 2,000 yards apart in almost a direct line; and the supply may be much more affected when the borings are only 200 yards apart, as proposed.

In this connection it is interesting to note that a novel suggestion was made in a recent report of the Geological Survey to the effect that deep wells from which water is pumped, might be artificially replenished by rain-water falling on impervious surfaces being drained into dumb wells, sunk through the impervious beds into the water-bearing strata below, from which the pumped water supplies are obtained. Another possible source of difficulty in the carrying out of the scheme is the depth at which it is proposed to lay the supply mains: 12 feet below ground level means some 8 feet under low water level in the Demerara River; and in view of the generally water-logged condition of the subsoil stratum of Demerara mud, it is to be feared that trouble may be experienced in excavating the pipe-trench at the depth proposed.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### The Election of Officers for 1915-16.

Mr. R. Rutherford presided over a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, May 20th. The members also present were: Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. G. Carrington, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. H. D'E. Spooner, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and confirmed, the Executive, pursuant to Article 5 of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, proceeded to elect officers. On the motion of Mr. R. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell was re-elected Chairman. Mr. Garnett then moved, and Mr. Gillespie seconded, the re-election of Mr. R. Rutherford as Deputy-Chairman, which was carried; and the Treasurers, Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. Cyril Gurney, were re-elected on the motion of Mr. C. A. Campbell, seconded by Mr. George Carrington.

The following were then admitted members of the West India Committee:—

Names.	Proposers and Seconders.
Mr. Robert Henderson, (Trinidad)	{ Mr. W. Gordon Gordon. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. Jesse Henderson, (Trinidad)	{ Mr. W. Gordon Gordon. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Father M. Gurrin, (Grenada)	{ Mr. J. P. Gun Mouro. { Mr. John de la Mothe.
Mr. Alan H. Shepherd, (St. Kitts)	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. { Mr. H. D'Esterre Spooner.
Mr. Edward A. Goulding, M.P.,	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. { Mr. C. Algernon Campbell.
Royal Bank of Canada (British Guiana)	{ Mr. C. Algernon Campbell. { Mr. M. Garnett.
Mr. John Parry Farnum (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Edgar Tripp. { Mr. George Huggins.

The Secretary reported the action of the Rum sub-Committee with regard to the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Bill, including interviews with the Commissioners of Customs, which resulted in the adoption of arrangements outlined in a leading article in last CIRCULAR. The action of the sub-Committee in the matter was approved.

The Deputy Chairman, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart and Mr. C. Sandbach Parker were appointed a sub-Committee, to investigate the terms of the present mail contract, and to recommend what provisions should be included in any future mail arrangements, in view of the expiration of the contract in 1917.

Reference was made to Mr. Prentice's remarks at the Annual General Meeting regarding Colonial Finance, and the Secretary was instructed to invite him to furnish the Committee with a memorandum on the subject and to attend a meeting.

It was decided to write a further letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies urging the importance of the immediate resumption of East Indian immigration.

Attention was called to the sale on the London market of part of Trinidad's gift of cacao, which had resulted in depressing quotations. The Secretary stated that he had made enquiries at the Colonial Office on the subject, and had been informed that three colonies had offered gifts of raw cacao. The War Office and the Admiralty had been at some trouble to devise means of using it to the best advantage, and they at last came to the conclusion that the only way to get it to the soldiers and sailors would be in the form of chocolate. Money was necessary to defray the cost of manufacture, and the Colonial Office consulted the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago and asked them which they would prefer, to send less cacao and to spend the balance of the £40,000 in manufacturing, or to send the whole £40,000 worth of cacao to London and sell enough there to raise the money for the manufacture, and they decided on the latter course.

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

### The Trinidad Motor Ambulance.

In the CIRCULAR of January 26th last we gave an illustration of the motor ambulance provided by the people of Barbados at the instance of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore. The Barbados car, which is doing excellent work at the front, has now been supplemented by a Trinidad ambulance, the gift to the parent body of the Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the British Red Cross Society, of which Mrs. Burslem and Miss S. D. Fenwick are joint Hon. Secretaries. A photograph of this very serviceable car is reproduced on another page.

The chassis is a 20 horse-power Singer to which a 4-stretcher canvas-covered ambulance body is fitted. The car carries the usual spare wheel and all the requisite tools for effecting repairs by the roadside. The body is so arranged that the lower floor board can be swung over to form seats which are capable of accommodating six wounded men "sitting up," and it can be quickly converted from one type to the other. The internal equipment comprises 4 stretchers, 6 rugs, pillows, mackintosh sheets, etc., besides a complete first-aid outfit. A brass plate near the driver's seat identifies the car with Trinidad and Tobago. Through the courtesy of the Red Cross Society, and the driver of the car, Mr. J. Corbett Light, a representative of the CIRCULAR was enabled to inspect the ambulance just before it was sent to France, and his report upon it is altogether favourable. The ambulance is now attached to the Duchess of Westminster's War Hospital at Le Touquet, where Mrs. Light is a nurse, and within fifteen minutes of its arrival it carried its first cases.

### The Trinidad Artillery.

Our second illustration shows a group of members of the Trinidad Artillery raised by Mr. Randolph Rust with the permission of the Governor, Sir George Le Hunte. It was taken shortly after they had been inspected by His Excellency while they were in camp for training. They form a fine body of stalwart men to whom nothing would give greater satisfaction than the opportunity of accounting for some Germans.

At the West Ham Police Court on May 20th nine natives of Barbados were charged before Mr. Gillespie with having been stowaways in the R.M.S.P. *Danube* on her last voyage. They stated that their object was to enlist and to go to the front, and, as Mr. Gillespie put it, they were "spoiling for a fight." The Secretary of the West India Committee intervened on their behalf, and suggested that they might be enlisted in a battalion of coloured men which was being raised in Cardiff, and promised that, failing that, he would endeavour to have them sent back to Barbados. Eventually the men were sent to Cardiff, their fare being paid by a local recruiting agency.

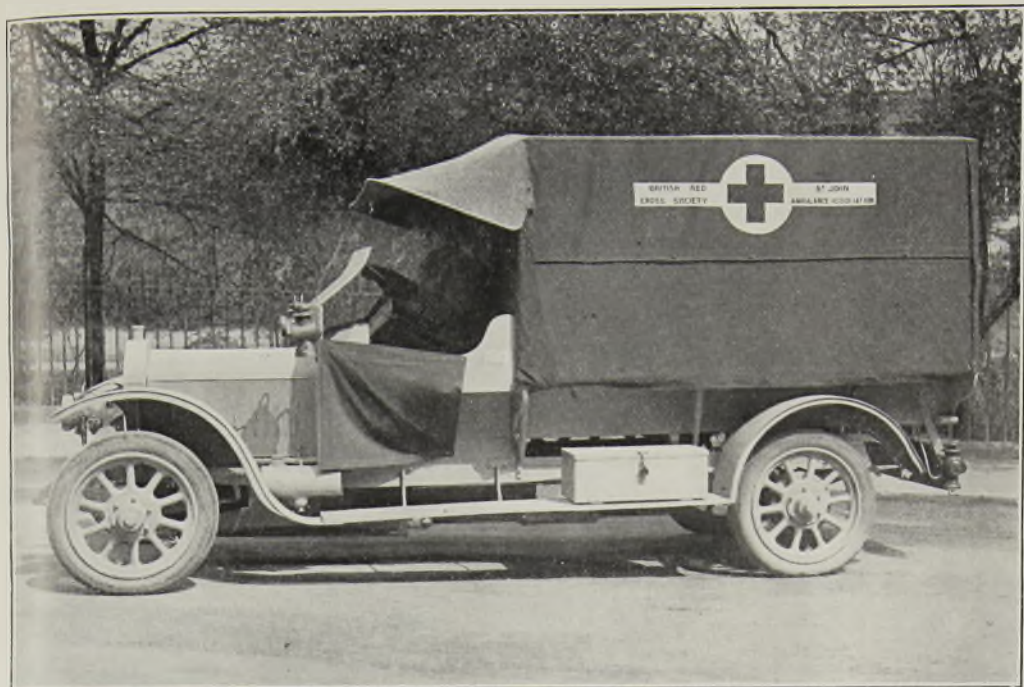
## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### The Question of Munitions.

There is not the least doubt that on both fronts the supply of projectiles, especially high explosives, is, in part responsible for the indecisiveness of some of the operations in the West, and for the shortening of the Russian line in the East. It is idle to say the situation was never anticipated, since experts both in this country and in France predicted that the coming war would be largely waged with artillery. But even had it not been so, we have had ten months in which to learn the lesson, and are only beginning to organise the national resources so as to ensure that the volume of munitions on its way to the front will be large enough to save our men from being uselessly slaughtered. Vindictive attacks have been made on Lord Kitchener by the Harnsworth Press as though the blame were his. Had he been Minister of War for the decade before the war they would have been intelligible. As he was thrust into the office in order to enable us to make up in one year for the time lost in forty of slackness, the nation's sense of justice promptly condemned the campaign as the personal spite of individuals, and the fury of a newspaper proprietor who is not allowed to make the war a means of providing sensations his penny and half-penny journals. It is to be hoped that Mr. Lloyd George, who has just been appointed to deal with the problem, will speed up our output without delay. It may be urged that the Germans are similarly hampered. There are, however, reasons for it that do not apply to England, which should at least be able to supply her own needs. Once we were told that it was for her to do that, and to supplement the energies of the Allies as well.

Again, how is it that Germany is so superior to us in machine guns? Not only has she large numbers of them, but she has worked out tactics in their use, and has plenty of highly-trained men familiar with them. Before the war in England the value of this weapon was not properly estimated. But surely we have had time to learn from the enemy, particularly as our losses through it have been heavy.

The most important advances made by the Allies since the battle of the Marne have taken place on the lines north of Arras, past Ypres to the Yser, west of which there are now no Germans. The French, with their African troops, have progressed between Steenstraete and Het Sas, while the enemy has spent himself at Ypres in attacks on the impenetrable barrier formed by the British. Further south our men have scored successes in the La Bassée region. On the Richebourg-l'Avone-Cuinchy front they have gained over a mile driving a wedge into the German line, and took in the rear the hamlet of La Quinze Rue. Sir John French reports that the Germans have again, under cover of poisonous



THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MOTOR AMBULANCE.



SOME MEMBERS OF THE TRINIDAD ARTILLERY.

gas, penetrated the British line to the east of Ypres. The fighting is still in progress, the enemy losing ground.

#### North of Arras.

Here the conflict is continuous and desperate, the French endeavouring to hold the fruits of their recent victory in the Artois section, the Germans to recover their lost ground. For once they are driven from the heights of Notre Dame de Lorette, which commands a wide plain, their line must be shortened appreciably. Hence they have clung to the position with extraordinary tenacity for the past seven months, converting it into a fortress. The two villages, Carey and Ablain, which flanked it, were also a network of defences. The cellars of the ruined houses were covered with a layer of reinforced concrete fully a yard thick, and connected by subterranean passages, along which the German troops could move at will, breaking out at unexpected points. It is to smash up such shelters as these that powerful guns and high explosives are required. Even then, no matter how heavy the preliminary bombardment may be, there are always positions which escape destruction, as our men discovered to their sorrow at Neuve Chapelle. On them machine guns, well-placed and worked, can inflict terrible losses on the attacking forces. It can therefore be readily understood that the capture of Carey and Ablain-St. Nazaire, which were joined up to Souchez by communicating trenches, and the chapel of Notre Dame de Lorette, constitute a victory which has filled the French with joy and gratitude. Their army in this region are now west of Angres, and advancing in the Carrières road towards Givenchy. Beyond is another height, which is a veritable fortress, as powerful as Notre Dame de Lorette. This is Vimy, a cliff flanked by the villages of Givenchy and Bailleul-sur-Berthoult. Of these, we are likely to hear a good deal in the near future.

#### On the Eastern Front.

General Mackensen, who revived the Macedonian phalanx with a vast concentration of artillery, in his successful attempt to throw back the Russians from the Djimajetz, seems to have relied on the splendid service of strategic railways in Galicia as the determining factor. But he forgot that the further he went the longer his line of communications became, whereas the Russians shortened their's until they were on a front secured by months of preparations. The accounts are so confused that it is difficult to know what is happening. One day it seems as the German offensive has reached its limit, another day as if it is still being continued. One thing is certain the Russians achieved a marked success in Eastern Galicia and Bukovina, inflicting a severe defeat on the Austrians on the Dniester along a front of 100 miles. Though in their retirement our Allies were forced to fall back from the Dnka and Lupkow Passes, they were able to main-

tain touch so as to reorganise on the River San, on whose right bank they effected a junction between their two battle fronts. For they could not remain on the Nida leaving their southern flank exposed to the enemy's attacks. The latest reports speak of fresh German reinforcements, and heavy fighting between Przemysl and the Stryj.

#### The Political Crisis in this Country.

For some time past it has been evident that the Government was losing the confidence of the country in its leadership and driving power. Men could not understand the failure to deal adequately with the alien peril, secure humane treatment for our prisoners in Germany, and provide munitions. Then came the costly blunder of sending ships alone to force the Dardanelles, the crisis being brought to a head by the rupture between Mr. Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Fisher, First Sea Lord, neither of whom took the constitutional view of his duties. Their idea is autocratic rule, whereas responsibility should lie with the Board, as war has re-taught us at heavy cost. The call for the reconstruction of the Cabinet was so insistent that Mr. Asquith was obliged to yield. Ministers, who were known to be lukewarm in the great cause, resigned, and new blood was introduced from the Opposition. Mr. Balfour goes to the Admiralty, Mr. Bonar Law to the Colonial Office—an appointment which will command confidence everywhere in the Empire—Sir Edward Grey remains at the Foreign Office, and Mr. Lloyd George is made Minister of Munitions in association with Lord Kitchener at the War Office. The experiment is a new one, evolved by the genius of our race to meet an unparalleled emergency, and it is "up" to us to make it succeed. The alternative is disaster.

#### Italy Intervenes.

The most fateful event of the past fortnight has been Italy's declaration of war on Austria. The step was inevitable, as was clearly seen by her people, who have clamoured for intervention from the first. That her statesmen have preserved her neutrality so long is due to the enormous difficulty of her position, her poverty, and the heavy burden she has incurred through recent wars. But since last August they have been preparing her naval and military forces so as to meet any emergency that might arise. The hatred the Italians bear to Austria is historic, and has lost nothing of its bitterness in recent years owing to the unjust treatment of their countrymen under Hapsburg rule. That Germany was anxious to prevent Italy's intervention is evident from the generous concessions she was prepared to make to her one time ally at Austria's expense. But Italy did not like the guarantee for their materialisation. How should she, with the fate of Belgium before her? She knows quite well that if she is to secure a strategic rectification of her frontier, the cession of the territories which were once hers, and a future in the Adriatic worthy of her aspira-

tions, she must fight for them. As the feeling of Englishmen for her is warm, she is very welcome as an ally.

#### In the Dardanelles.

Little news comes through from this theatre of the war, but perceptible progress is being made, the enemy doggedly resisting, with heavy losses on both sides. The rugged contour of the country renders rapid advance impossible, but with the intervention of Italy the Allies will be provided with an excellent base, so some speeding up of the operations may be anticipated. We have one great advantage as it is. Thanks to our sea-power our lines of communication are safe, and because of the naval guns enemy aircraft cannot do as much damage to the railways as they can elsewhere in the area of the war. The neck of the peninsula being virtually in our hands the Turks' only line of communication is by water across the straits at a point above the Narrows at Nagara. But even here the Allies are active, E 14 having operated in the Sea of Marmara for nearly three weeks, sinking two gunboats and a transport. With our increasing control of the Turks' communications his hold on the Gallipoli Peninsula must weaken. But much remains to be done, and many sacrifices to be made before his solid organisation breaks down so far that he can be said to be in a precarious position.

#### The Position at Sea.

Two more battleships have been lost in the Dardanelles, or five in two months. They were the *Triumph*, which was purchased from the Chilean Government in 1903, and was, therefore, a comparatively new ship, and the *Majestic*. Fortunately most of their officers and men were saved. They were torpedoed by a submarine while operating in support of the Australasians on the Gallipoli Peninsula. News comes, too, of the brilliant exploit of E11, which destroyed an ammunition ship, a storeship, and a supply ship in the Sea of Marmara. She went further, and raided Constantinople itself, the most daring naval feat of its kind in history, the result being the probable loss of a transport to Turkey. E11 is a new type of submarine.

In Sheerness Harbour, the *Princess Irene*, an auxiliary ship, which was a Canadian Pacific liner before being taken over by the Admiralty, was blown up by an explosion, with a loss of 200 lives. The official account describes it as an accident, as was done in the case of the *Bulwark*.

The Germans have captured an American vessel, the *William P. Frye*, and murdered American citizens on the high seas by the sinking of the *Palaba* and *Lusitania*, practically with impunity. Now they have torpedoed the American ship, *Nebraskan* off the coast of Ireland. The crew were ordered to leave her, but when they saw she did not founder, they returned on board, and are endeavouring to navigate her to Liverpool. What does the United States say to this?

#### Another Zeppelin Raid.

Following upon the raid on Southend a Zeppelin approached Dover, but made off when the shore guns opened fire. Bombs were subsequently dropped along the coast, two civilians being killed and one injured. The raider was then attacked by a British air squadron, which seriously damaged her without any damage to themselves. Later she was reported to have been attacked by a French destroyer, and to have sunk into the sea. Calais was, also, visited on the 16th with the result that there were three casualties. As usual the raider took to flight when the anti-aircraft guns opened fire, and French aviators started in pursuit. It should be noted, however, that there is a marked improvement in the German aeroplanes, which were equal neither to the French nor British when the war started.

#### In South-West Africa.

With the occupation of Windhoek, the capital of South-West Africa, the German resistance in the Colony collapses. Though it was thoroughly prepared, and the nature of the country was in its favour, General Botha's skill and audacity rapidly broke it down. Carrying their own water across vast sandy wastes under a blazing sun columns widely sundered operated in such a way as to threaten the enemy's communications, converging at strategical points in time to drive him before them. The more one learns of the campaign the more one appreciates the fine generalship of the Union leader. East Africa is now the only German Colony which holds out because the British Forces operating against it are totally inadequate for their job.

(To be continued.)

The Executive of the West India Committee has passed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. W. H. Trollope for the gift of a mezzotint of the Hon. Dudley Woodbridge, dated 1718, reproduced in last CIRCULAR.

During the year to date 43 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:

Trinidad	...	6	Antigua	...	1
Barbados	...	5	British Honduras	...	1
British Guiana	...	5	Grenada	...	2
Tobago	...	5	Nevis	...	1
Jamaica	...	2	London	...	9
St. Kitts	...	2	Country	...	4

At an early date Dr. H. B. Gray, formerly head-master of Bradfield College, who has been appointed official lecturer at the Imperial Institute, will deliver a lecture on the West Indies and British Guiana. It will be followed by a visit to the exhibition galleries of the Institute. Applications for tickets may be addressed to the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

## GRENADA CACAO.

The general administration report on the Agricultural Department of Grenada for last year gives the following results of the manurial experiments conducted at Mount Home and Grand Bacolet.

Manures used per acre.	Cured cacao per acre in lbs.	
	Grand Bacolet.	Mt. Home.
1. No manure	1,271	1,994
2. Pen manure	2,238	1,778
3. Sulphate of ammonia 2 cwt. Basic slag 4 cwt.	2,120	1,606
4. Sulphate of ammonia 2 cwt. Sulphate of potash 1½ cwt.	2,101	1,116
5. Sulphate of ammonia 2 cwt. Basic slag 4 cwt. Sulphate of potash 1½ cwt.	1,962	1,001
6. Dried blood 4 cwt. Basic slag 4 cwt. Sulphate of potash 1½ cwt.	1,231	1,116
7. Sheep manure 32 cwt.	1,426	907
8. Mulched with grass and leaves	1,485	1,299

It is to be remarked that the "no manure" plot at Mount Home has borne remarkably well compared with the others. As this is the first complete year's working of these experiments, this result is no doubt due to initial irregularities in the trees or the soil which may in the case of the latter be removed in future years; in any event it will be possible to observe the relative development of the several plots concerned.

Some trouble was caused with the die-back or "stagshorn" disease of cacao branches attributable to the fungus *Diplodia cacaoicola* and the Department recommends that where the presence of this trouble is established it should be promptly dealt with by cutting back, in which operation the all-important point is to cut well below the diseased portion of the branch preferably at its base. The cuts should be painted and the dead wood burned. Some extra attention should also be given to the condition and fertility of the soil in which the trees are growing. But particular care should be taken not to confuse root disease with this trouble.

A leaflet was published by the Department in December calling the attention of planters to the gradual increase of black blight on cacao, and stating that pumps and spraying materials were available for loan. The insect in this case attended with black blight is a mealy-bug, and the increase of black blight on cacao cannot be in any way the outcome of black blight on mangoes and other trees: in the case of these, entirely different species of insects are responsible for the trouble. As natural parasites of the mealy-bug are not known in Grenada spraying is the most useful means of control which can for the present be recommended.

The abandonment by one or two planters of the practice of burying the pods cannot, says the Report, be regarded as a sound measure. It is quite possible that, as has been suggested in some quarters, the

buried pods may serve to nourish the fungus which causes root disease if it is present on the spot, though no authenticated case of such an action has yet been recorded. The absence of ill-effects on so many estates where burial of pods is practised warrants the general continuation of the custom, in view of its definite advantages. Where ill-effects are believed to occur, the plan of burying the pods at a distance from the cacao cultivation, or better, of composting them in special pits, should be adopted in preference to leaving them in heaps or strewn under the trees.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### IV.—THE OUTLOOK IN THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

In recent CIRCULARS we gave the replies of the Governors of British Guiana, Fiji, Mauritius and Trinidad respectively to the circular letter which the West India Committee addressed to the Governments of the sugar-producing colonies asking what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry. The reports showed that under favourable conditions those colonies could very substantially increase their output of cane sugar, the figures of the possible annual production being:—

	Tons.
British Guiana	2,500,000
Mauritius	305,000
Fiji	95,000
Trinidad & Tobago (1914 crop)	55,488

The following despatch on this subject has been received from the Government of the Leeward Islands:—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua.  
15th February, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 4042 of the 11th November last, I have the honour to transmit to you copies of the following documents with regard to the expansion of the sugar industry in the Leeward Islands:—

- (1) Copy of a minute by the Superintendent of Agriculture dated the 1st December, 1914.
- (2) Copy of a letter by the Commissioner of Montserrat No. 610/975 of the 20th November, 1914.
- (3) Copy of a despatch by the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis No. 334 of the 24th November, 1914, and
- (4) Copy of a despatch by the Acting Administrator of Dominica No. 50 of the 8th February, 1915.

I have the honour to be, etc.

W. D. AUCHINCLECK.  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

[Enclosure 1.]

Copy of a minute by the Superintendent of Agriculture.  
Honourable Colonial Secretary,

The total area under sugar cultivation in Antigua is estimated at about 16,000 acres; of this total annual reaping area is approximately 2/3 or about 10,600 acres.

2. It is probable that an equal area of lands exists which are suitable for cane cultivation, and which are cultivated in other crops or abandoned, although in some cases they are remote from districts at present cultivated in sugar and may present some difficulties in relation to transport, etc., while in other cases the soil will be somewhat poorer in character than the best of sugar lands.

3. Increase in area is hampered to some extent by available labour supply, but if this were capable of better organisation than at present it seems likely that a considerably increased area could be taken under cultivation. There also remains to be considered how far labour could be reduced by the systematic use of implements under suitable conditions.

4. The most important limiting factors are the absence of facilities for manufacture beyond existing dimensions, and the lack of capital to undertake extensions, combined with absence of confidence in the stability of the industry, and the low prices of the last few years which together unite to prevent the attraction of capital necessary to further expansion.

5. Having regard to the various limiting factors I am inclined to think that given conditions favourable to expansion there is no reason to doubt that the annual exports of sugar might on the average reach at least 20,000 tons.

(Sd.) H. A. TEMPANY.

1st December, 1914.

[Enclosure 2.]

Commissioner's Office, Montserrat, W.I.  
20th November, 1914.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 455/4042 of the 11th November, 1914, I have the honour to report, for His Excellency's information, that there seems to be suitable land and plenty of labour for the cultivation of at least 2,000 acres of sugar cane in Montserrat, but that for half this area suitable works do not exist, or the previously existing works have been partly demolished, and their re-erection would mean a very considerable outlay of capital.

2. The output from 2,000 acres, should it be grown, would probably not exceed 1,000 to 1,500 tons.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Sd.) W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Lt.-Col.  
Commissioner.

[Enclosure 3.]

Government House, St. Kitts, W.I.  
24th November, 1914.

Sir,

With reference to Your Excellency's despatch No. 324 of the 12th November, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a minute by the Agricultural Superintendent of this Presidency in regard to the possible expansion of the sugar industry in St. Kitts and Nevis.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Sd.) T. LAURENCE ROXBURGH,  
Administrator.

*Memorandum on Sugar Industry in St. Kitts-Nevis with a view to the probable expansion.*

ACREAGE SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE FOR SUGAR CULTIVATION.

The acreage under sugar cane cultivation in St. Kitts-Nevis at the present time is 15,500 acres, of this 7,000 acres in St. Kitts and 1,500 acres in Nevis are under canes, plants and ratoons for reaping each season.

The actual area suitable and available for sugar cane cultivation in the two islands was formerly 20,000 acres,

but owing to low prices and inferior machinery this has been reduced by some 5,000 acres, and this reduction has chiefly affected Nevis.

If it was possible to erect another Central Factory in the Northern District in St. Kitts, and to make arrangements for say two small factories in Nevis there is little doubt but that the cultivation of sugar cane would again reach former figures or an expansion of from 4,000 to 5,000 acres.

THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF SUGAR THE COLONY WOULD BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING WITH ITS EXISTING LABOUR SUPPLY.

The average amount of sugar exported from St. Kitts-Nevis for the past twelve years has been 12,990 tons, and judging from this it would be safe to conclude that with the increase in acreage and the additional return of sugar per acre with the advent of more Central Factories, the approximate amount of sugar that the Colony could produce would be at least 20,000 tons or an increase of about 50 per cent on the present average crop. The expansion of the sugar industry in this colony is possible only with the erection of Central Factories, as in St. Kitts alone the advent of another such factory would mean an increase of at least 30 per cent. in the average crop, and the erection of small factories in Nevis would do much to resuscitate the industry.

The labour question would not present much difficulty, as if the sugar industry was revived on modern lines there would not be the necessity for the emigration of the labourers to St. Domingo and other places in search of remunerative work, as they could find it at home under the improved conditions.

19.11.14.

(Sd.) F. R. SHEPHERD.

(To be continued.)

ONE of the most busy men in France at the present time is Sir Joseph Godfrey, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana, who is controlling the destinies of the Wemyss Hospital in France. The hospital, which was founded by Lady Wemyss, of Wemyss Castle, Leven, Fifeshire, a daughter of the late Lord Cowley, is situated in a beautiful old chateau which dates from the 16th century, and now belongs to the Duchesse de la Mothe Houdancourt who married Mr. Hussey-Walsh. It stands in beautiful wooded grounds at Canly, Oisc. The staff consists of three surgeons besides Sir Joseph, who is director, organiser, and "Medecin en Chef," and there are also nine qualified and fully trained nurses and the matron. The hospital has three wards, 40 beds, an operating room and X Rays, besides an isolation ward for very bad cases. Countess Helena Gleichen and Mrs. Hollings, both connected with the St. John Ambulance Society, are respectively Commandant and Lady Superintendent, and are in charge of the ambulance and transport arrangements, and control three motor ambulances and a motor car. As most of the civilian doctors in the neighbourhood are serving in the army, villagers are also treated by the hospital. Sir Joseph has already received several kind gifts, including £25 from Mr. Arthur McConnell for the purchase of tobacco for the patients, and it is hoped that the publication of these few details of the hospital may result in further presents being received.

**THE RAMSAY MACERATOR AND CARRIER.**

The question of the efficient application of water to megass is an extremely important one in connection with modern multiple mill work. In fact, the multiplication of mills on a crushing plant is to a great extent money thrown away unless the maceration or imbibition of the megass is thoroughly performed, with a maximum of sugar extraction and a minimum use of water. Hitherto, in imbibition, the

manner to secure equal distribution on each side of the megass. An intermediate carrier also forms part of the patent, the carrier trough of which is watertight, and is carried by brackets attached to the mill headstocks. The travel of the megass from one mill to another is assisted by means of light chains and slats of a special type resting on the top of the moving megass. The main points of advantage in connection with the Macerator and Carrier are the efficient control of the application of the maceration water, the clean conduct of the megass from one mill to the other with an entire absence of water dripping and fine megass dropping, and the easy manner in which the side rolls can be removed without dismantling the carrier.

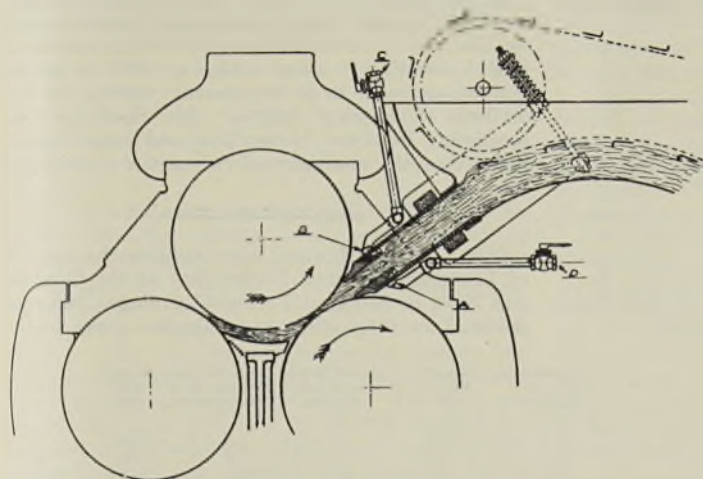


Fig. 1. The Maceration Scrapers.

water has been merely added to the megass as it leaves the mill, and after the expansion of the spongy mass from the release of pressure has occurred, and when the interstices of the megass have become filled with resistant air. In the Ramsay Patent Macerator the pressure to which the megass is subjected in the mill is continued for a time after the megass leaves the mill; and during this period water is forced into it in such manner that the squeezed cells of the megass are thoroughly saturated. It consequently happens that when expansion takes place on the release of pressure, not only is there no loss of water, but the sugar in the cells has entered into thorough solution with the water.

The method by which this desirable end is attained is shown in Fig. 1, in which a pair of maceration scrapers are given, the function of which is to continue the pressure upon the megass after it has left the mill and to enable water to be forced into the blanket through the maceration channels A. and B., the supply being regulated by cocks C. and D., in a

manner to secure equal distribution on each side of the megass. An intermediate carrier also forms part of the patent, the carrier trough of which is watertight, and is carried by brackets attached to the mill headstocks. The travel of the megass from one mill to another is assisted by means of light chains and slats of a special type resting on the top of the moving megass. The main points of advantage in connection with the Macerator and Carrier are the efficient control of the application of the maceration water, the clean conduct of the megass from one mill to the other with an entire absence of water dripping and fine megass dropping, and the easy manner in which the side rolls can be removed without dismantling the carrier.

Fig. 2. represents a Ramsay Carrier recently erected in South Africa.

Messrs. Fawcett, Preston and Co., Ltd., of the Phoenix Iron Works, Liverpool, are the manufacturing licensees of the patent, and will no doubt be happy to supplement this brief sketch by further information if asked to do so.

RUM, says the *Wine Trade Review*, gets many important advertisements in public statements.

Addressing a man who said he had taken a drop of rum for toothache, Mr. Symmons, a Metropolitan magistrate, said: "I don't think that rum is any good for toothache. If you take a half-pint of rum just before going to bed it will cure a cold right off. It is no use taking less than half a pint. You take it in two goes before going to bed, and, in the morning when you wake up you will not recollect that you had a cold." Again, at a confer-

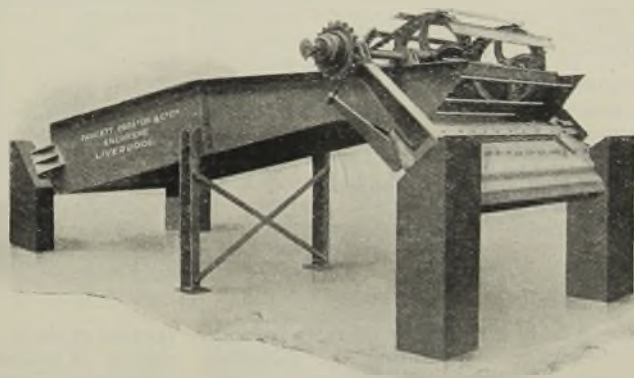


Fig. 2. A Ramsey Carrier.

ence of the British Women's Temperance Association in Glasgow, Lady Griselda Cheape declared that rum was most invaluable as a medicine.



### CATTLE FOODS IN MAURITIUS.

In view of the possible scarcity of cattle food-stuffs as the result of the war, Mr. F. A. Stockdale, the Director of Agriculture of Mauritius, has issued a useful circular to the sugar estates in that colony, pointing out the various local products utilisable for the purpose and their relative food values, which he gives as follows:—

	Food value.
Acacia	100
Pois sabre	72
Voehm	70
Pois mascate	70
Dholl (ambrevade)	55
Gram	52
Oats	30
Maize	26
Rice paddy	15
Cotton seed cake (decorticated)	200
Pistache cake	120
Cotton seed cake (non-decorticated)	60
Wheat bran	27
Rice bran	21

He also gives the following analysis of local food-stuffs in connection with their food value:—

	Digestible Fibre or Cellulose.	Digestible Fats or Oils.	Digestible Proteins or Albuminoids.	Digestible non-nitrogenous Carbohydrates.	Albuminoid ratio	Starch equivalent.
<b>GREEN FODDERS.</b>						
1. Cane tops (whole)	4.8	1.8	.8	7.8	20.9	19
2. Cane macadam	4.5	1.8	.7	6.8	22.0	17
3. Grasses—averages	6.0	1.2	1.3	8.5	13.3	20
<b>TUBERS.</b>						
4. Manioc	1.1	—	.5	21.4	45.0	23
5. Sweet potatoes	.5	.3	.8	16.3	21.9	19
<b>SEEDS.</b>						
6. Dholl ambrevade	3.8	1.3	18.4	36.3	2.3	55
7. Gram	9.0	3.3	16.2	35.5	3.2	89
8. Acacia Seeds	9.8	4.1	26.7	26.7	1.7	108
9. Pois sabre	6.2	2.0	22.1	29.0	1.8	90
10. Pois mascate	3.8	3.0	20.9	32.9	2.1	92
11. Voehm	3.9	1.1	21.3	34.6	1.9	90
12. Maize, seeds	1.1	4.0	8.0	45.4	6.0	75
13. Oats, grains	7.2	4.3	9.3	40.7	6.2	79
14. Rice (paddy)	7.3	1.3	6.3	41.0	8.1	66
<b>BRANS AND MEALS. (fourrages).</b>						
15. Wheat bran (son de blé)	6.8	2.6	10.0	35.0	4.7	71
16. Rice bran (son de riz)	6.2	6.1	7.8	33.5	6.9	72
17. Pistache meal (torlean)	3.5	5.7	31.1	15.9	1.0	104
18. Poonac (coco-nut meal)	3.6	13.9	12.1	24.0	4.0	60
19. Cotton seed meal (torlean) not decort.	10.7	3.0	17.1	17.6	2.5	83
20. Cotton seed meal (torlean) decort.	4.5	8.2	13.2	15.1	.9	138
<b>SUGAR WASTES.</b>						
21. Molascuit	9.2	—	1.5	38.5	31.8	51
22. Molasses	—	—	1.4	50.2	35.9	53

In the above table the albuminoid ratio is found by adding the figures representing the digestible crude fibre and the digestible non-nitrogenous substances to 2.3 of the digestible fats and dividing by the amount of digestible crude proteins.

The starch equivalent is found by adding together the amounts of cellulose and non-nitrogenous substances to 2.3 of the fats and crude proteins.

As regards the rations to be given to cattle the following details are given:—

	Dry matter lbs.	Digestible protein lbs.	Starch equivalent lbs.	Fats lbs.
1. Ox at rest	18	6.7	6.0	0.1
2. Draught ox, medium work	25	1.7	9.7	0.5
3. Draught ox, heavy work	28	2.2	12.8	0.8
4. Milch cows, 15 lbs. milk	26	1.5	9.5	0.4

Of course, while the above represents the chemical view of the food subject, allowance must be made for the ego of the animal and for the question of food "essentials," about which so little is known and which seem to be at present outside of the methods of chemical analysis. Mr. Stockdale's information, however, is excellent and valuable, and is based on the general modern practice of scientific feeding.

MR. I. H. P. HERIOT, who occupies the position of Lecturer on Sugar Technology at the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical Colleges, has contributed an interesting and valuable paper to the

*Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry* on the subject of molasses as a source of alcohol for the production of power, in which the potentialities of the world in this respect is clearly put forth. Mr. Heriot, it may be remarked, finding that his pupils had vacated the class room for the trenches, volunteered his services in the cause of his country, and is now making shells in a Glasgow shell factory.

## CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce has now published further instalments of the summary of the report of Mr. Watson Griffin, who visited the West Indies as Special Trade Commissioner last year. The third of these deals with the importation of farm products. Mr. Griffin believes there should be an increasing market in the West Indies for such items as potatoes, apples and condensed milk, besides butter and cheese. There is such an abundance of fruit in the West Indies that the people there could subsist without importing any foodstuffs, but tropical foods are monotonous when one has to live on them exclusively, and he found that even the poorest people in the West Indies have already an appetite for northern products.

In 1913 nearly 2,000,000 pounds of butter were imported into the Colonies which are signatories to the preferential agreement; but of this Canada supplied 38,461 lbs. only. It is, in this connection, an interesting fact that St. Lucia imported 2,360 lbs. from Siberia. With regard to flour, Mr. Griffin is satisfied that Canada will eventually supply the whole demand in the preferential colonies provided that deliveries are made promptly. He does not believe that there will ever be a great demand for fresh fish from Canadian waters, even if special cold storage facilities are provided, for residents in the tropics prefer smoked, dried and canned fish, of which surprisingly large quantities are imported. An East Indian merchant informed him that the people like the taste of dried, salted and smoked fish much better than that of fresh fish, which deteriorates so quickly.

In the fourth instalment of the series Mr. Griffin deals with the opportunities the West Indies afford for the sale of Canadian manufactures, such as cooking utensils, ready-made clothing, piece goods, and agricultural machinery. With regard to the latter he was surprised to find how very few ploughs were used, the work of tilling being done with forks, and he saw no reason why ploughing should not be carried out in spite of the explanation given to him that irrigation and drainage ditches divided the estates into such small plots that it could not be conducted economically. He calls on the Canadian agricultural implement manufacturers to produce a cane cutter which will successfully and cheaply cut sugar cane. Such a cutter would have a large sale, but would have to be good enough to compete with the cutlass handled by men who work at a wage of 30 to 35 cents per day.

Mr. Griffin found that motor cars were everywhere taking the place of horses and carriages to a great extent, and he believes that the owners of lime estates in Dominica are making such good profits that there would be a large number of motor cars in that island if the roads were not "so outrageously bad," and he advises the manufacturers

to watch the movement in the direction of securing an improvement in the roads. With regard to lumber the question of importance is whether the Douglas fir of British Columbia can surpass the pitch pine of the Southern States. All the lumber dealers to whom he spoke agreed that they would buy the Canadian lumber in preference to that of the United States if they were convinced that it would stand the climate as well. Canadian white pine and spruce were imported in great quantities owing to the fact that though the native woods are more durable, stand the climate better, and resist the attacks of white ants better, it is cheaper to import pitch pine than to use native woods owing to the difficulty of transportation of the latter, though if a great number of the same kind of trees grew together in the tropics the local forests would be able to supply the demand, and in this connection he refers to the policy of the Trinidad Government in making plantations of forest trees.

Mr. Griffin believes that motor boats, yachts, and similar pleasure boats should have a good sale in the British West Indies, and that an active canvasser with a good motor boat or yacht might be able to get a number of orders. But within the compass of the CIRCULAR it is not possible to mention a tithe of the many interesting points made by Mr. Griffin in his report, which, however, appeals really more to the Canadian business man than to the importer in the West Indies.

## PAPER FROM COTTON STALKS.

A pulp mill with a capacity of 50 tons per diem has been erected at Greenwood, Miss., in the United States, to deal with cotton stalks which have hitherto been unused. Writing in the Journal of the Society of Arts, Mr. C. Olds states that according to a conservative estimate the annual supply of cotton stalks in the United States is about 75,000,000 tons. If but 25 per cent. of this could be utilised it would yield about 6,000,000 tons of paper worth more than £10 per ton. Mr. Olds goes on to state that the best cellulose for durable papers will be obtained from the fibres of the cotton plant. This particular fibre is a thin-walled tube which collapses in a peculiar twisted manner in the beating process much better than any other fibre and holds its grasp tenaciously. It is strong, flexible and durable, of light weight, and with double the tensile strength of stock used in ordinary wrapping paper. Paper made from cotton-plant fibre, when nitrated, becomes an efficient and convenient form of smokeless powder.

Chemical works are to be erected at Greenwood in which to conserve and refine the by-products produced which it is hoped may prove of much value in arts and manufactures.

Large quantities of old cotton stalks are being delivered at the mill site, the cost delivered being about 12s. 6d., or \$3 U.S. currency, per ton. The daily consumption of stalks will be 150 short tons which will yield 50 tons of pulp.

## WELLS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Since the first artesian deep well was bored in 1913 at D'Urban Park—so-called after Governor Sir Benjamin D'Urban in 1829—near Georgetown, British Guiana, much progress has been made in the direction of providing the capital and various towns and places in the colony with a pure water supply. In the same year a second well was bored on the line of Water Street near the steamer stelling.

In 1914 and the present year wells have been bored at Parika on the West Coast of Demerara, at New Amsterdam, the capital of Berbice, two villages on the East Coast of Demerara, and at Lichfield, on the West Coast of Berbice, with the following results:—

*Parika.*—This well yields a supply of good water at a depth of 380 feet, but in lesser quantity than from the Georgetown wells.

*New Amsterdam.*—Water was obtained from a depth of over 1,000 feet, estimated at 450,000 gallons per day.

*Nabacklis.*—A flow estimated at 370,000 gallons per day was obtained at a depth of 800 feet.

*Plaisance.*—400,000 gallons per day were obtained from a depth of 700 feet, attained in the remarkably short time of eight days actual drilling.

*Lichfield.*—This well has only just been recently completed, figures not yet known to the writer.

Briefly, the present scheme consists in the sinking of a series of twenty 8 in bore wells at a distance of 200 yards apart in two sets—one of seven wells to be drilled on the Belair Park or Race Course, and the other of thirteen wells to the north side of the city, along the line of Cumings Canal and Lamaha Street, the flow from these wells being collected in gathering mains attached to the well-heads and leading along Camp Street to the present pumping station, which is conveniently placed in a good central position in Georgetown; and from there the water will be distributed throughout the city by means of the existing high-duty pumps and delivery mains. The gathering mains are intended to be of 10 in., 14 in., and 18 in. diameter lap-welded steel pipes, embedded in concrete and laid at a depth of 12 feet below ground level. Each well is calculated to yield on an average 350,000 gallons—a conservative estimate based on the flow of existing wells in Georgetown—making a total supply of seven million gallons per day, which is thought will be ample to meet all requirements for some years to come.

AMONG recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have been Mr. R. W. Tomlinson, Hon. Secretary of the West India Association of Glasgow, Mr. Leslie Jarvis, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, and Mr. A. P. Sherlock, Member of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, who hopes to remain in this country until September.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

### The Prospects of Financial Success.

But for the heavy expense of maintenance in the Culebra Cut, the Panama Canal would have probably paid its way from the start. For the first six months of the fiscal year July 1st, 1914, to June 30th, 1915, the total earnings from tolls were \$2,334,515.24, while the total expenditure in operation and maintenance was \$2,595,613.33, the loss being thus approximately 10 per cent. only. Included in the expenditure was \$1,012,695.39 for maintenance in the Culebra Cut over and above work at the Cucaracha slide, which has been debited to the construction account.

According to the *Canal Record* tolls earned during March, 1915, amounted to \$560,784.96. Against this it is estimated that the cost of operation and maintenance will be approximately \$425,000. This would bring the total for nine months to about \$3,020,000, as against toll earnings of \$2,894,300.20, and reduce the loss to approximately \$125,000 or \$130,000, about four per cent. of the expenditure for operation and maintenance.

### The Depopulation of the Canal Zone.

Since June, 1913, when the exodus of employees began in consequence of the approaching completion of the Canal, no fewer than 25,000 people have left the Canal Zone. In March last there was, however, for a change, an excess of immigration over emigration, owing to the arrival of 1,471 American soldiers.

On February 24th last there were only 23,445 men at work on the Canal as compared with 42,262 on June 25th, 1915.

## THE RECENT FIRE AT COLON.

Particulars have now been received regarding the fire which destroyed a third of the city of Colon on April 30th last. Colon—formerly called Aspinwall after one of the founders of the Panama Railroad—stands on Manzanillo Island, which is only separated from the mainland by mangrove swamps. Formerly a hotbed of yellow fever it was transformed beyond recognition by the Americans, who built the palatial Washington Hotel—which fortunately escaped the fire—and now advertise the place as a tourist resort calling it Colon Beach. The buildings in the devastated area were mainly two-storied wooden houses and shops of a decidedly mean appearance. The fire broke out at 2.50 p.m. in a fruit store at the north-west corner of Eighth and Bolivar Streets, two blocks away from the Panama Railroad Station. It spread rapidly among the flimsy timber buildings, and in spite of the efforts of the local brigade and the fire departments of Panama, Balboa and Gatun, who sent engines and men to the scene of the conflagration by special trains it was not got under until 9 p.m. By that hour 430 buildings in an area cover-

ing 22 blocks and 19½ acres of buildings had been wiped out, and property to the value of \$3,000,000 gold had been destroyed. Only five people were killed, but 7,500 were rendered homeless.

Twelve buildings were destroyed by dynamite in order to check the progress of the fire, and it is noteworthy that a reinforced concrete house prevented the spread of the flames to the American suburb of Cristobal—a lesson from which some towns in the British West Indies should profit.

## OBITUARY.

### SIR ERNEST NORTHCOTE.

The funeral service for Sir Ernest Augustus Northcote, late Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, was held on 17th May in Holy Trinity Church, Kensington Gore, and was followed by the interment at Kensal Green Cemetery. The officiating clergy were the Rev. W. B. Coward, vicar, and the Rev. F. A. O'Brien, a friend of more than fifty years' standing. The musical parts of the service, including the *Marche Funèbre* of Chopin, were beautifully rendered.

An old friend writes: "Of Sir Ernest's judicial career abroad, long, varied and honourable, I cannot speak from personal knowledge; but from his characteristic fairness, courtesy, scrupulous neatness in method and accuracy, I feel sure that his work deserved the praise which it received. I can recall, among more important things, two or three of Ernest Northcote's youthful accomplishments, which in some degree lasted into far later years. One was his excellent acting; in the Westminster Play of 1868 his *Phormio*—as some still remember—was quite the outstanding part, full of spirit and ability. At Cambridge, he will, I think, often have been acclaimed in the sprightly performances of the A.D.C. Then as to games and athletics, he played for at least two seasons in the Westminster XI. (Captain 1869) and afterwards for the Cambridge Athenæum Quiddines, and probably the Trinity College XI. At school he won 1st prizes for throwing the cricket ball, for jumping, and for short distance races. Later in the West Indies, he was still a very useful cricketer and lawn-tennis player. Near the end of his life, he took a kindly and helpful interest in the cricket doings of the choir boys who sang at the Church he attended. All his life, Ernest Northcote was kind and pleasant, a thoughtful friend, genial and amusing, so that no wonder that his popularity at Cambridge was remarkable. He was fond of children and heartily greeted by them.

"Among other engagements or appointments which he had lately given up through failing health was his place on the Governing Body of Westminster School. And his old friends may well feel that his character and career entitle him to an honourable place in the roll of Old Westminsters."

### MR. CHARLES MAULME.

We regret to announce that Mr. Charles Maulme died at his residence in Rue de Châteaudun, Paris, on April 25th.

Mr. Maulme, who was 71 years of age at the time of his death, acted as agent in Paris for a large number of clients in the British West Indies. He had many personal friends in most of the islands, and his firm has been connected with the tropics for over half a century. He was a courteous and honourable gentleman, and was greatly esteemed by all who were privileged to know him.

### MR. WILLIAM LOW.

We regret to state that Mr. William Low died at Union Vale Estate, St. Lucia, on Friday, May 21st.

Mr. Low was formerly in the Colonial Civil Service. After acting as Private Secretary to Lieut.-Governor Henry Longden in 1866 he became Private Secretary to Lieut.-Governors Hulwer and Freeling. In 1874 he was appointed Police Magistrate in St. Vincent. After holding acting appointments in Barbados and Grenada, he was made Commissioner of Tobago in 1892, and Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast six years later. He retired in 1901, and since that year he resided in St. Lucia as an estates' proprietor. Mr. Low was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

## ROCK CARVINGS AND BABOON WORMS.

Regarding the illustrations of the newly-found rock carvings in St. Vincent and the curious caterpillar from British Guiana in the CIRCULAR of May 4th (No. 433) facing page 188, Sir Everard im Thurn writes to us:—

The photographs of pictured rocks from St. Vincent are interesting, but it not easy to comment on an isolated example such as this. Two things strike me at once as to your example: (1) The engravings seem more than usually like mere scribbings of some idle "Indian," but perhaps if the obliterated parts of the markings could be restored the figures might acquire more meaning than they have at present; (2) Comparing this St. Vincent example with those known to me in British Guiana it seems clear that the St. Vincent engravings are more like those at Waraputa Fall on the Essequibo River than others seen in Guiana.

It would be useful if anyone would collect representations of all such sculptured rocks from the South American area. I have published a few and have others unpublished. Bastian, of Berlin, published a large number from the Orinoco area, and others have from time to time been given in various scattered proceedings of Societies, etc. Something might be gained by bringing all these together—but at present I have no time to do this.

The paragraph about the "baboon worm" interested me also. I often came across these strange creatures, and on more than one occasion bred them out to the mature stage. Unfortunately I cannot remember what the insect was—except that it was a moth, not a butterfly. I am almost certain that I wrote a little paragraph on the subject in Jenman's "Garden and Field," reprinted from the [Demerara] *Argosy*. . . They are hard to tackle as the hairs are very brittle and apt to penetrate the skin of anyone handling them; causing severe irritation, and, in some cases, fever.

MESSRS. F. BORDAS and S. de Raczowski have recently been investigating the effect of foot and mouth disease on the composition of milk. The changes which occur in the composition of the milk and butter due to this disease are a notable increase in the proportions of fat and mineral salts, especially chlorides, and a decrease in the percentage of casein. There is apparently no change in the percentage of lactose, except in the case of milk from cows in the height of fever, and where there is an abnormal high fat content there is a decrease in lactose accompanied by a corresponding increase in ash.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below :*

- Alcock, Lieut. B. G., M.D., (son-in-law of Rev. John Rennie, Demerara, British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Allwood, Lieut. Aubrey, (son of the late Mr. J. Allwood, Resident Magistrate, Jamaica), Army Ordnance Department.
- Barnes, Lieut. Hewett Wood, (of Barbados), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Berwick, D. T., (of Port Maria, Jamaica), 2nd Canadian Contingent, Automobile Section, Canadian Army Service Corps.
- Brown, Major E. Craig, D.S.O., (nephew of the Hon. Robert Craig, of Chapelton, Jamaica), Cameron Highlanders.
- Chalmers, 2nd Lieut. James S. (son of Mr. William Chalmers, Georgetown, Demerara), 12th Sherwood Foresters.
- Cranstoun, Lance-Corporal, (son of Mr. S. S. Cranstoun, of Cassada Garden, Antigua), 4th Troop, A Squadron, Canadian Mounted Rifles.
- Curtis, Lieut. J. Dorrien C., (son of Mr. F. J. Constable Curtis, of Georgia Estate, Jamaica), 3rd Battalion, King's Own Loyal Lancaster Regiment.
- Delgado, Lieut., (son of Mr. Delgado, of Falmouth, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Dennistown, Captain J. O., M.V.O., Grenadier Guards, (late A.D.C. to Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica), Deputy A.A. & Q.M.G., Headquarters Staff.
- Dew, 2nd Lieut. J. Clyde, (son of Captain Joseph T. Dew, of the Antigua Defence Force), Royal Horse Artillery. Mr. Dew joined the 4th Royal Scots at the outbreak of war, obtained a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery, and was selected for the Royal Horse Artillery, ("B." Reserve Brigade, St. John's Wood).
- Dew, Captain Joseph T., Antigua Defence Force.
- Foulkes, Major C., D.S.O., (Legion of Honour), on General Staff at Headquarters.
- Francis, J. H., (of Jamaica), Commission in Kitchener's Army.
- Gibb, Major E., D.S.O., (served in Jamaica), Army Service Corps.
- Gideon, 2nd Lieut. Thaddens, (son of Hon. D. S. Gideon, of Jamaica), 9th Battalion, and Lincolnshire Regiment.
- Gideon, Lieutenant Cyril Scarle, (son of the Hon. D. S. Gideon, of Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Hewett, Captain G. B., (late West India Regiment), Worcester Regiment.
- Horne, L. M., (son-in-law of Mr. Corinaldi, solicitor, of Kingston, Jamaica), Canadian Contingent.
- Ireland, Lieut. H. R. H., (late West India Regiment), 1st Leicester Regiment.
- Lewis, Lieut. R. E., (West India Regiment), Commander Military Wing, Royal Flying Corps.
- Lewis, Major Stanley, (son of Mr. J. D. Lewis, solicitor, of Mandeville, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps. Awarded the Legion of Honour in November last.
- Loscombe, Colonel A. R., (late Colonel, 1st West India Regiment), 9th South Staffordshire Regiment.
- McConney, Private H. M., (son of Rev. J. M. McConney, St. Stephen's Vicarage, Barbados), 6th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.
- Minniken, Lieut. H. J., (late West India Regiment), Captain, West African Regiment.
- Morgan, Major C. H., D.S.O., (late West India Regiment), 11th Battalion Worcester Regiment.
- Mosse, 2nd Lieut. C. E., (youngest son of the late Hon. C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G., Surgeon-General, Jamaica), Army Service Corps.
- Nash, Lieut. E. J. M., (son of Mr. A. J. Nash, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Was for some time stationed in Jamaica). The Army Service Corps.
- Paton, Captain A. C., Proprietor of Belle Vue Pln., St. Ann, Jamaica), Army Service Corps.
- Poyer, Walwyn G., (son of Mr. John Poyer Poyer, of Henley and Husbands, Barbados), 2nd Durban Light Infantry.
- Pridham, Captain C. H. B., (late West India Regiment), Captain, West African Regiment.
- Redman, Private R. C., (son of Mr. W. K. Redman, of Messrs. Johnson and Redman, Barbados), Canadian Expeditionary Force, No. 3 General Hospital (McGill University).
- Ryde, Major F. R., (late West India Regiment), 11th Battalion Worcester Regiment.
- Sellers, Algernon Frederick, (son of Mr. W. F. Sellers, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), Naval Reserve on H.M.S. *Mauro*.
- Tait, Dr., (of Port Maria, Jamaica), Lieut. Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Tandy, Major B. N., (served in Jamaica Royal Garrison Artillery), Brigade Major on the Staff.
- Williams, 2nd Lieut. W. B. K., (of Kingston, Jamaica), 15th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.
- Williams, Private Charles Patrick, (son of the late Mr. W. Martin Williams, magistrate, British Guiana), 16th Queen's Westminsters.

### Alterations and Corrections.

- Blake, Captain M. B., (son of Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G.), Flight Commander Military Wing, Royal Flying Corps.
- Calder, 2nd Lieut. J. T., (son of the Hon. J. V. Calder, St. Catherine, Jamaica, and late Lieut. in Jamaica Volunteers), Derbyshire Yeomanry.
- Chalmers, 2nd Lieut. Harry C., (son of Mr. William Chalmers, Georgetown, Demerara), 16th Royal Fusiliers.
- Coxhead, Brigadier General of Artillery, (late Lieut. Col. of Artillery).
- Dunn, Private Ernest W., (of Kingston, Jamaica), Honourable Artillery Company.
- Greig, 2nd Lieut. Marshall, (of Messrs. Greig Bros., Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, son of Mr. James R. Greig), 10th Battalion, and Seaford Highlanders Regiment.
- Howard, Major L. M., (late Captain Royal West Surrey Regiment), 15th West Yorkshire Regiment.
- Ogle, Major E. C., (son-in-law of Mr. W. B. Gray, solicitor, Kingston, Jamaica), 11th Battalion, Liverpool Regiment.

### Missing.

- Lucie-Smith, Lieut. E. R., (son of Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, late Postmaster of Jamaica), 1st Battalion Warwickshire Regiment.

### Wounded.

- Bancroft, K. G., (son of Mr. J. R. Bancroft, of Barbados), 16th Battalion Canadian Scottish.
- Glanville, Lieut. H. F., West India Regiment and Royal Flying Corps.
- Poyer, Lionel Poyer, (son of Mr. John Poyer Poyer, of Henley and Husbands, Barbados), East African Mounted Rifles, seriously wounded on May 13th, near Bissel.
- Sellers, Lance-Corporal Sydney George, (son of Mr. W. F. Sellers, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), 7th Battalion, 1st Canadian Contingent, was wounded about the time of the re-taking of Hill 60, and is now a prisoner in the Military Hospital at Ghent.

### Died of Wounds.

SECOND LIEUT. D. PIKE STEPHENSON, of the 4th North Staffordshire Regiment (Special Reserve), who died in Boulogne Hospital on Whit Monday, was born in Jamaica, and educated at Wolmers Grammar School, Kingston. He was selected as a Rhodes Scholar in 1911 and entered Lincoln College, Oxford, in the Michaelmas Term of that year. He obtained a second class in the final school of jurisprudence in June last, and was reading for the Bar at Gray's Inn. Lieutenant Stephenson served three years in King Edward's Horse and at the outbreak of war received a Commission in the 4th North Staffordshire Regiment. He left for the front on St. Patrick's Day, being attached to the 1st Cheshire Regiment, and was wounded on May 7th. He was the first Rhodes Scholar to fall in the war.

CAPTAIN STEPHEN FIELD, of the Royal Army Service Corps, who died at Wittenberg, where he was taken as a prisoner of war recently, served in Jamaica, where he was well-known and very popular.

### Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT GORDON DAVSON, Royal Horse Guards, who was reported in last CIRCULAR to have been wounded and to be missing, has, we much regret to learn, been killed in action. It appears that on May 13th he was twice wounded near Ypres while gallantly leading his troop across the open to recover a trench. After the position had been recaptured he was missing, but he was eventually found in a shell hole to which he had evidently succeeded in crawling. Born in 1888, Gordon Davson was the youngest son of the late Sir Henry Davson, Chairman of the West India Committee, and of Lady Davson of 20, Bunismore Gardens, London, S.W. He was educated at Eton, and after leaving school entered the family business of Henry K. Davson and Company, West India Merchants, of which he was a partner at the time of his death. He first visited British Guiana in 1908, and was paying his fourth visit to the Colony when war broke out. He immediately returned to rejoin his regiment the Westminster Dragoons, of the second regiment of which he was made Captain and Adjutant. In November last he was gazetted to the Royal Horse Guards as Lieutenant, and he went to the front in February. Between then and the time of his death he was successively appointed Interpreter, Intelligence Officer, and Officer in Charge of Explosives. He was the author of the book "French Phrases," and was also a musician of note, being the composer of the "Druid's Prayer," "Saints and Sinners," and other well-known waltzes, which enjoyed and still enjoy widespread popularity. In this connection it is a pathetic coincidence that the late Lord Roberts, as President of the fund for the purchase of the battlefield of Waterloo, had arranged that the subject of this memoir should produce a waltz for the Centenary this month, and that both of them should have died so near the spot before the arrival of the anniversary. That Gordon Davson had a brilliant career before him was the expectation and the belief of his friends who are much grieved by his early death.

SECOND LIEUT. W. B. WELLS DURRANT, of the 6th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, who has recently been killed in action was the only son of the Hon. F. C. Wells Durrant, K.C., Attorney General of the Bahamas, who formerly practised in St. Vincent, and held legal appointments in that island and St. Lucia.

CAPTAIN WALTER BASIL HADDON-SMITH, 2nd the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, who was killed in France on May 16th, was the elder son of Sir George Haddon-Smith, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, and of Lady Haddon-Smith. Born in 1884 he was educated at Bedford Grammar School and at Sandhurst, receiving his commission in 1903. He served with his battalion in South Africa, at Gibraltar, and in Bermuda, and took up the appointment in 1913 of A.D.C. to the Governor of the Bahamas, which post he relinquished in December, 1914, to rejoin his battalion in France. He was promoted

to the rank of captain in September, 1914. He married, in 1907, Edith, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Booker, of Folkestone.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### The New Cabinet.

The changes in the Cabinet foreshadowed by Mr. Asquith at a meeting of the Patriotic Committees on May 19th were announced on May 26th. The new Coalition Cabinet which recalls the "Ministry of All the Talents" of 1806 is composed as follows:—

Prime Minister	MR. ASQUITH.
First Lord of the Treasury	LORD LANSDOWNE.
Minister without portfolio	SIR S. BUCKMASTER.
Lord Chancellor	LORD CREWE.
Lord President of the Council	LORD CURZON.
Lord Privy Seal	MR. MCKENNA.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	SIR J. SIMON.
Secretaries of State:	SIR R. GREY.
Home Affairs	MR. BONAR LAW.
Foreign Affairs	MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
Colonies	LORD KITCHENER.
India	MR. LOYD GEORGE.
War	MR. BALFOUR.
Minister of Munitions	MR. RUNCIMAN.
First Lord of the Admiralty	MR. LONG.
President of the Board of Trade	MR. CHURCHILL.
President of the Local Government Board	MR. BIRKELL.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	MR. MCKINNON WOOD.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	LORD SELBORNE.
Secretary for Scotland	MR. HARCOURT.
President of the Board of Agriculture	MR. HENDERSON.
First Commissioner of Works	SIR E. CARSON.
President of the Board of Education	
Attorney-General	

Mr. Redmond refused to join the Cabinet. The retiring ministers are Lord Haldane (who receives the Order of Merit), Mr. J. A. Pease, Lord Esmott (who was Under Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1911 to 1914), Lord Beauchamp, Mr. Herbert Samuel and Mr. E. S. Montagu.

MR. BONAR LAW, who succeeds Mr. Harcourt at the Colonial Office, was born in Canada, in 1858, and after a successful business career in Glasgow, entered Parliament as Unionist member for the Blackfriars Division of that city in 1900. He was Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade from 1902 to 1905, and represented Dulwich from 1906 to 1910. He contested North-West Manchester against Mr. Churchill in December, 1910, but was defeated, and has since sat for Bootle. He succeeded Mr. Balfour as Unionist leader in the House of Commons in 1911.

### The Immature Spirits (Restriction) Bill.

This Bill which was introduced by the Attorney-General on May 11th, the main clauses of which as amended and passed are given below was considered in Committee of the House of Commons on May 17th. The Bill met with much opposition and with little enthusiasm from its supporters. Mr. Bigland, M.P., Mr. Pennefather, M.P., and Mr. Ernest Pollock, K.C., M.P., championed the cause of rum, and advocated a reduction of the compulsory bonding period for rum from nine months to three months. Mr.

Pollock pointed out that the arguments in reference to whisky could really have no application of any sort or kind to the question of rum, which did not require maturing. It matured as far as necessary in its transit from the West Indies to this country. It was made in a climate far hotter than this, and in the course of transit it lost, he believed, as much as 5 per cent. by evaporation. It contained no fusel oil at all. It did not contain any of the deleterious compounds, to get rid of which maturity was required, and was therefore a spirit which might be used raw satisfactorily. He asked what would happen at the end of the period of one year when the present supply was exhausted and it would not be possible to get any rum which would satisfy the conditions of the Act.

Mr. Acland said that the nine months had been agreed upon at a Conference which included the Secretary of the West India Committee, and although he could not say there was absolute contentment, it was agreed that, on the whole, considering the legislation intended, it was a fair proposal.

The Bill passed its third reading on May 18th. Its terms as amended are as follows:—

1. (1) No British or foreign spirits shall be delivered for home consumption unless they have been warehoused for a period of at least three years:

Provided that—

(a) this restriction shall not apply to spirits delivered for purposes for which they may for the time being be delivered free of duty or to mixtures, compounds or preparations which have been charged to duty in respect of the spirit contained in them or used in their preparation or manufacture; and

(b) subject to the payment of such duties (if any) as Parliament may determine, and to compliance with such conditions as the Commissioners of Customs and Excise may impose, this restriction shall not apply—

(i) to spirits delivered to a licensed rectifier, to a manufacturing chemist, or to a manufacturer of perfumes, for use in their manufactures, or to other persons licensed by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise; or

(ii) to spirits delivered for scientific purposes; or

(iii) to imported Geneva and perfumed spirits, and foreign liqueurs; and

(c) subject to the payment of such duties (if any) as Parliament may determine and to compliance with such conditions as the Commissioners of Customs and Excise may impose, this restriction shall not apply for a period of one year after the commencement of this Act—

(i) to spirits of any sort delivered for home consumption, if they have been warehoused for a period of at least two years; or

(ii) to imported rum delivered for home consumption, if it has been warehoused for a period of at least nine months; and

(d) any period which, in the case of imported spirits is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to have elapsed between the dates of distillation and importation shall be treated, for the purposes of this Act, as a period during which the spirits have been warehoused.

(2) Nothing contained in this Section shall interfere with the supply of rectified spirits of wine for the purpose of making medicines to registered medical practitioners to hospitals, and to persons, firms, and bodies corporate entitled to carry on the business of a chemist and druggist."

(3) If any person procures, or attempts to procure, the delivery of spirits in contravention of this Act, or acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any conditions im-

posed by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise in pursuance of this Act, he shall be liable to a Customs or Excise penalty, as the case may be, of one hundred pounds; and any spirits in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

2. Where any existing contracts are interfered with by this Act the contractors shall to the extent of such interference be relieved therefrom.

After the Bill had been passed the resolutions increasing the spirit duties which had been temporarily in force since April 30th were rescinded, and a resolution imposing the following customs duties on spirits taken out of warehouse before three years under the terms of the Bill were adopted.

	Where the Spirits have not been warehoused for a period of two years.		Where the Spirits have not been warehoused for a period of less than two years.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
For every gallon computed at proof of spirits of any description except perfumed spirits	1	0	1	6
For every gallon of perfumed spirits	1	7	2	5
For every gallon of liqueurs, cordials, mixtures and other preparations entered in such a manner as to indicate that the strength is not to be tested	1	4	2	0

A resolution imposing corresponding excise duties on spirits distilled in this country namely 1s. on spirits delivered for home consumption warehoused for two years or less than three years, and 1s. 6d. on those warehoused for a period of less than two years.

#### Rum under the Spirit Bill.

On May 18th, Mr. Kellaway asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention had been called to the fact that it would be impossible within the period of one year to build up supplies of rum sufficient for the needs of the country; and that, if the three years' restriction was imposed after one year, it would gravely prejudice the sale of rum from His Majesty's rum-producing Colonies; and whether he would be prepared to amend the Inmate Spirits (Restriction) Bill by taking powers further to extend the period of one year so as to safeguard these interests.

Mr. Lloyd George replied: I have received representations in the sense suggested in the first two parts of the question. As regards the last part, I fear I cannot undertake to introduce an Amendment to the Bill on the lines indicated, but if at the end of a year it is found that the stocks will not allow of full compliance with the law, the matter will be further considered.

The representations referred to were those made by the West India Committee and the West India Association of Liverpool.—[Ed.]

THE yearly statement of factory work issued by Dr. Geerligs on behalf of the Java Experiment Station shows that the mean extraction of 167 factories was 9.76 per cent. of all sugars, of which 7.17 per cent. were white sugar, on the weight of canes. The mean sugar content of the canes was 11.91 per cent., and the mean quotient of purity of the juice 82. The mean extraction by the mills was 90.43 per cent. of the juice in the cane, with 14.20 per cent. maceration on the normal juice.

**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

EAST Indian immigration into British Guiana and the British West Indies, which was suspended after the outbreak of war, is, we are glad to learn, to be resumed at an early date.

\* \* \*

MR. JAMES MCNEILL, who visited the West Indies and Fiji last year to report on immigration matters has been appointed a member of the Council of the Governor General of India.

\* \* \*

HIS many friends will be glad to learn that Mr. Leslie Jarvis, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, who recently underwent an operation in a nursing home in London is now in the best of health again.

\* \* \*

MR. ALGERNON FREDERICK SELLERS, son of Mr. W. F. Sellers, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, has recently passed his test for Master and is now a Sub-Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve on board the H.M.S. *Manco*, which is stationed at —.

\* \* \*

SIR HESKETH BELL, Governor of the Leeward Islands, continues to make good progress towards recovery after his recent operation. He is still at 15, Welbeck Street, a nursing home in London, but hopes to be about again in two or three weeks' time.

\* \* \*

THE marriage took place on Friday, 28th May, at the Kensington Chapel, Allen Street, W., the Rev. Thomas Yates assisted by the Rev. Mark Guy Pearse officiating, between Muriel Longfellow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Black, of Halifax, N.S., and Stewart Lockie Gibson (Edinburgh) of the Royal Naval Division of Engineers.

\* \* \*

THE Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast furnishes the following approximate figures of cacao production in the colony:—

	lbs.	£
January	38,843,840	589,661
February	17,321,920	271,615
March	14,109,760	271,239
Total	70,275,520	1,132,515

For the year 1914 the total production was valued at £2,193,678.

\* \* \*

LIEUT. A. WILIE HUGHES, son of our old friend Mr. George Hughes, of Molascuit fame, who returned from the front wounded some weeks ago, is now acting as recruiting officer for the 10th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers. The regiment is being formed of bank clerks and the best class of city men, and Mr. Hughes will be glad to hear from aspirants for military honours who fall under that category at 6, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

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On the "Missionary Evening" of the United Free Church Assembly in Edinburgh on May 20, the Rev.

J. F. Gartshore, speaking of "The uplift and the outlook" in Jamaica, said the outlook was very bright. There was no colour question in Jamaica, and notwithstanding the fact that the white population was only two per cent. of the whole, white women were perfectly safe from interference. This was due to two things, the British Flag and the Gospel.

\* \* \*

LADY FRENCH writes to acknowledge with thanks many gifts which she has received in response to her appeal which was published in the CIRCULAR. She informs us that comforts, and especially socks, are still urgently needed for wounded soldiers in hospital. An appeal on behalf of the Princess Club Hospital has also been generously responded to, and the CIRCULAR has to thank several anonymous readers who are so very kindly sending magazines and newspapers for that institution every week.

\* \* \*

THE Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Australia has sent a notice to the farmers supplying its factories with canes informing them that it is impossible for them to indicate what price will be paid for the canes after the conclusion of the present contracts. It is pointed out that, apart from other considerations, it is impossible for them to fix a price for the raw material if the price of the finished product is fixed by force of law. The official price of sugar in Australia is below that indicated by the world's price.

\* \* \*

IN an excellent article on "Nos colonies a sucre et la guerre, de 1914," in the *Journal des Economistes*, M. George Dureau refers to the progressive condition of the rum industry of Martinique. The value of the rum exports of that colony which was 7 millions of francs, rose in 1913 to nearly 12 millions, nearly reaching the figure representing the value of the sugar imports. This movement is the direct result of the legislation introduced into France in connection with food products, which put an end to the adulteration of the genuine article with artificial rums.

\* \* \*

SUMMING up his paper as regards sugar, M. Dureau says that, in common with all sugar producing countries not engaged in the actual war, the line of procedure in the French colonies is in favour of the extension of the cultivation of sugar as much as possible. The measure of this extension will be the length of time the relatively high market price for sugar continues, and the extent to which the cost of production is increased by the abnormal conditions produced by the war.

\* \* \*

THE Antigua Government Granary began operations on May 3rd under the management of a Board, consisting of Dr. Tempany, Chairman, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Auchinleck, the Hon. R. Warneford and Mr. A. P. Cowley. The granary is run on co-operative lines. A first payment of 2s. 6d. per bushel of



shelled grain is made to growers to be followed by a distribution of the surplus profits of the undertaking after paying all expenses and deducting 25 per cent. as the profit of the granary. Corn to the extent of 5,000 bushels is also purchased for cash at the rate of 3s. 6d. per bushel of shelled grain, and corn is kiln dried for 6d. per bushel. The Granary proposes to sell the corn as "Antigua Granary kiln-dried corn." If this experiment proves a success Government granaries will no doubt be established in other parts of the West Indies which are at present far too dependent on imported corn.

\* \* \*

MR. F. BONHAM SMITH, I.S.O., Provost-Marshal of Barbados, writes that the West India Committee Map of the West Indies is the best map of the kind he has ever seen. He adds that he finds it useful and that it should be still more useful to business houses.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 3s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

\* \* \*

MR. CHARLES BRIGHT, F.R.S.E., contributes to the April number of the *Nineteenth Century* an article on Telegraphs in War-Time, which should command attention. He shows how the general belief that the mastery over and retention of cable communication in war time resolves itself into a question of naval supremacy proved itself correct at quite an early period. Within a few days of the outbreak of war we cut the German Atlantic cables to the Azores, thus cutting off the enemy's communication with the United States, and we have now practically isolated Germany from such colonies as she still holds as well as from neutral countries. Mr. Bright tells the thrilling story of the Cocos episode in which the *Emden* figured and the repair of the Fanning Island Station. He points out that the war has revealed the desirability, if not the actual necessity, for all our Inter-Imperial communicating links being placed under a Government Board of Control in strategic and general National interests.

\* \* \*

THE plight of the million Belgians who have dared to remain in their native land has been the subject of many articles in the press. The German Army of occupation has refused to feed the Belgians who would be in danger of actual starvation but for the merciful and effective interposition of a neutral Relief Commission, formed under the auspices of the American and Spanish diplomatic representatives in London. This Commission has, in the face of unparalleled difficulties, arranged for the importation into Belgium of food supplies to the value of over £10,000,000. Hitherto no appeal has been made in the United Kingdom because it was felt

that as neutrals it was not within the province of the organisers of the movement to do so. An appeal has, however, now become an imperative necessity, and has been issued by the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, of which the Lord Mayor of London is Chairman, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, who is well-known in the West Indies from his connection with the West Indian Club, is Hon. Secretary.

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It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 rs. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

## REVIEWS AND PERIODICALS.

IN the current number (Vol. xiii., No. 1) of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, further attention is given to the "Economic Resources of the German Colonies," the agricultural and forest products of German East Africa being specially considered. These products include copra, ground nuts, sesame seeds, oil palms, castor oil, beeswax, cotton, wild rubber, coffee, grain, tuberous plants, sugar cane and tobacco. All these products are in native hands. In addition the German East Africa Company conducts a considerable sisal hemp industry—over £367,000 worth was exported in 1912—and Europeans are also responsible for the cultivation of cotton, kapok, plantation rubber and gutta percha. The exports of the two last named products for 1912 reached a combined value of over £362,000. Germany has been receiving the bulk of the products, but a certain amount of plantation rubber, coffee, copal, hides and skins (of which the total exported value for 1912 was over £203,000) and ivory have been coming to the United Kingdom. In the same issue of the *Bulletin* appears a detailed report on some of the so-called "native drugs" growing in British Possessions. A very large number of these vegetable drugs and poisonous plants have been exhaustively investigated at the Imperial Institute, but with a few exceptions they have proved disappointing from the point of view of scientific medicine. Other articles treat of the comparative economic and other values of the lime and the lemon, the possibilities of silk-worm culture in British Colonies and Dependencies, and of Egyptian wheats and their suitability for export to the United Kingdom.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

BRILLIANT sunshine favoured Whitsuntide and filled the parks with thousands of holiday-makers. The motor buses took many more thousands to the open country outside London. But for the shadow of war the Bank holiday would certainly have proved a memorable break in the daily round of work. This year Empire Day fell on Whit-Monday and a pleasanter experience of "Queen's weather" could not have been desired.

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UNHAPPILY the morning's newspapers contained the account of the most terrible railway disaster in our history. Gretna, the border village bound up with memories of "runaway" weddings, was the scene of a triple collision which involved casualties equalling those entailed by many a battle. The bulk of these, moreover, occurred among soldiers bound for the front. The impact of the troop train with a "local," and the dash of a London express into the wreckage completed a scene of destruction fortunately rare in railway annals. At first suspicions arose that the disaster might have been the work of German spies. The confession of a signalman at the inquest, however, that "he forgot" removed all doubt as to the cause.

\* \* \*

THE political upheaval has been attended by the departure from the Colonial Office of Mr. Harcourt. As Secretary of State, Mr. Harcourt ever displayed that regard for the Crown Colonies and tropical dependencies which characterised his predecessor, Lord Crewe, and the smaller possessions undoubtedly lose a friend who evinced more than an official concern in their well-being. As First Commissioner of Works—for the second time—Mr. Harcourt will, however, still remain a member of the Cabinet. It is a tribute to the high place now held by the Colonial Office among Government Departments that in the new Coalition Cabinet it will be controlled by the Leader of Opposition in the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law.

\* \* \*

LORD KITCHENER, whose place in public regard has been confirmed by the recent scandalous attacks upon him by the *Daily Mail* and its allies, has issued an appeal for 300,000 more men, and little doubt is felt but that he will get them. In this connection we note the formation at Cardiff of a coloured battalion. The latest recruits for this battalion have been provided by a number of patriotic Barbadians, whose martial ardour prompted them to face all the risks and discomforts of travelling to England as stowaways. The intervention of the West India Committee saved the men from any legal penalties for their action.

\* \* \*

THE word heard on every lip to-day is munitions. Munitions, indeed, as the cables will have shown are

to be assigned a Department of State all to themselves under the vigorous leadership of Mr. Lloyd George. The men engaged on the production of armaments have received a fresh stimulus to exertion by a tour of the King, who has spent many days inspecting the factories and shipyards of Scotland and the North of England.

\* \* \*

At a moment when the cry is "all hands to the pump," some little indignation has been excited by the action of the London tramwaymen in going on strike. The strikers alienated all popular sympathy by their action which involved delay and discomfort to hundreds of thousands of workers resident in the suburbs. Their demands at such a moment were considered unreasonable, and concession would have saddled the ratepayers—already bearing a sufficient financial burden—with an added charge of some £200,000 per annum.

\* \* \*

WE are approaching the summer holiday season, but the advent of warmer days, it is feared, will bring little joy—or cash—to some of our holiday resorts. The retiring Chancellor of the Exchequer has been advising us to husband our money—a course to which many people are being influenced by rising prices. Especial sympathy is felt for the hotel and boarding-house keepers along the East Coast, which has already suffered from bombardment by the enemy both by sea and air. The Isle of Man, too, is in parlous case through restricted steamship connection with the mainland.

\* \* \*

FINANCIAL loss, a further consequence of the war, will also fall on places like Epsom, now that racing has been, with very few exceptions, suspended. The general sentiment was against this form of sport at such a time of public anxiety. The cries of book-makers and of itinerant vendors of various types are more than usually dissonant, and the prospect of the losses of this section of the community makes no impression. The many legitimate callings connected with racing are, however, likely to suffer acutely from the suspension.

THE report of Mr. James McNeill and Mr. Chimman Lal on the condition of immigrants in British Guiana, the West Indies, Surinam and Fiji, which was summarised in the CIRCULAR of March 9th, No. 429, has now been published as a Parliamentary Paper. It was printed in India, and a curious misprint has escaped the eye of the watchful reader, reference being made to "suicides and immortality on estates" in Trinidad. Commenting on this the *Yorkshire Observer* reminds us of a similar but converse mistake made in an old edition of a Nonconformist hymn book, which gave a description of

A land of pure delight  
Where saints immortal reign.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

THE Report of Dr. Russell, the Director of the celebrated Rothamsted Experiment Station on the work done at that institution for the year 1914, illustrates in a striking manner the progress which has been made in our knowledge of the chemistry and biology of the soil.

THE knowledge of the mere presence of a body is not sufficient in itself; before the value of it can be determined it is necessary to know in what state it exists, and how it stands in relation to the other constituents of the soil. Thus for a long time water has been supposed to exist in a soil in two forms, free and hygroscopic. Now this distinction is abolished. There is no break in the continuity of the physical states. The colloidal matters, that is to say, the bodies in the soil which are not crystallisable, diminish the tendency to evaporation, but in a normally moist soil all the water is held in the same way.

AS with the water supply so there are new revelations as regards the presence of air in soils. Unlike water, however, there are two kinds of air in soils, the free air surrounding the particles, which is identical in composition with the air generally, and the air dissolved in the soil moisture and colloid bodies, which contains no free oxygen, but which consists mainly of carbonic acid and nitrogen. This is the air which is in intimate contact with the plant roots, and micro-organisms, and, as Dr. Russell points out, its lack of oxygen proves that the oxygen is used up more quickly than it is renewed by solution from the free air.

IMPORTANT factors in the fertility of the soil are the bio-chemical changes that take place in it. Nitrogen compounds occurring naturally in the soil or added as manure break down under the action of micro-organisms, with the formation of nitrates and gaseous nitrogen. The former is utilised for plant nutrition, the latter is waste, and the nitrogen lost to the cultivator. In the winter months it has been found that the production of nitrates varies with the temperature, but that during the remainder of the year, it follows the rainfall, and to a less extent the moisture in the soil. It is a justifiable supposition that the oxygen in the rainfall is a factor of extreme importance in this connection. After a heavy rainfall, a diminution in the proportion of carbonic acid in the soil occurs followed by an increase in nitrates.

THERE are two other factors on which the micro-organisms of the soil depend for their activity. The one, Dr. Russell points out, is provided by the residue of plants, the other is the presence in the soil of sufficient basic material, which in practice means enough carbonate of lime. Soil protozoa re-

ceived the especial attention of the investigators at Rothamsted, and the existence of active protozoan fauna has been proved in soils. Three different bacteria-feeding protozoa have been discovered, one of which is as much as .04 in diameter, a perfect leviathan.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Owing to the late arrival of the R.M.S. *Orissa* at Liverpool we are only able to give a summary of the letters received from our Honorary Correspondents in the West Indies. As elsewhere in the civilised world the news of the sinking of the *Lusitania* had aroused in the West Indies a feeling of indignation and horror that any nation could be guilty of such an act of wholesale murder of defenceless women and children.

Writing from Barbados on May 18th SIR FREDERICK CLARKE reported a continuance of showers which were good for the young crop but kept back the reaping. The wind had been stronger, enabling the wind mills to carry on to some extent. The quality of the juice was very poor since the rains.

From British Guiana, in a letter dated May 15, Mr. J. C. McCOWAN reported that the weather had been favourable during the fortnight, nice rains having fallen at intervals, the heaviest fall being on the 13th instant, when nearly 5 inches were recorded in town, the low lying portions being submerged for some hours. The local sugar prices had been fixed by the Governor at 4½ cents for yellows and 3½ cents for refining. At a meeting of the Permanent Exhibitions Committee on May 14, the Governor gave his consent to the silver cup presented by the West India Committee to the British Guiana Committee being placed on a stand behind His Excellency's seat in the Court of Policy Hall. A successful May Day Fair was held at St. Andrew's Manse in aid of the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross Society. The *Argosy* Mail Edition published an interview with Professor Harrison regarding a visit which he had paid with Mr. Buck to the North-west district to investigate oil and pitch possibilities there.

MR. E. A. AGAR sent from Dominica his Annual Review of the Trade of the Island which will be dealt with in next issue. A road roller ordered under the Road Construction Scheme formulated by Major Burdon had arrived. The weather was seasonable, and everything promised well. A new office had been created for Mr. G. A. Jones, Assistant Curator of the Botanic Station, and all were pleased that he would remain in the island.

JAMAICA.—MESSRS. J. E. KERR & Co., Ltd., May 14th.—Tonnage: The question of tonnage is an exceedingly grave one. We are glad to say that the opportunities for shipment to the United States have not been much curtailed, so that the markets in the United States for our produce are still open. We regret to say that the opportunities for shipment to Canada are exceedingly limited, as the Pickford and Black boats are now only running once a month, since the loss of the *Anita*. This makes the market for muscovado sugars a very limited one. In reference to shipments to the English market, the action of the Government in putting on tonnage has been very much appreciated, and the *Erymanthos* has taken a large shipment of Jamaican produce, and the Government have been very liberal in their treatment of shippers, as they have utilized none of the space for their own Government sugars. We understand that steps are being taken to put on further tonnage by the Government for London, and, should these oppor-

difficulties continue, the difficulties of shipment will be very much minimized. We very much appreciate the activity of the West India Committee in protecting our various interests, and we have noted with pleasure their action lately in regard to the home legislation of duty on spirits.

HON. BERRISFORD GOSSET, MAY 12th.—We are still suffering from the inconvenience of lack of steamers to take produce to England, and hope the contemplated further use of enemy's prizes will be carried out. We are glad to learn that the discontinuance of the use of rum in the trenches is only partial. We are now busy picking the coffee crop in the Blue Mountains, which promises to be good both in quantity and quality, as the weather is fine and warm, which facilitates curing; the difficulty is to get the coffee to the Liverpool market. At any rate coffee when well cured improves by keeping, so is better in these times than fruit and bananas. We wonder why the Army authorities send to South America for mules for army transport, and never try our Jamaica mules, which are at present rather abundant and difficult to sell locally. We could easily supply a shipment of four hundred fine mules from three to five years old for transport purposes.

The DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY inform us that the War Funds in Jamaica now stand as follows:—

Jamaica Relief War Fund ( <i>Gleaner</i> )	9182	16	3
Central War Fund	11677	0	7
Aeroplane War Fund	113	5	3
"Give a Cigar" Fund	259	2	8
Belgian Orphan Fund (just opened)	37	7	0
The Palace Amusement Co. War Fund (closed)	329	8	8
The Jamaica Times Shilling War Fund (closed)			
and included in Central War Fund	45	10	0

An effort is being made to collect £3,000 for sending 200 volunteers from the island to England to join Lord Kitchener's army. Mr. William Wilson, merchant, who originated the scheme is appealing for 100 subscriptions of £30 each to carry it through. The amount collected so far has reached £331 10s., four days having elapsed since the fund was opened under the name of the "Jamaica War Contingent Fund." A shilling fund to assist Mr. Wilson's scheme has been opened, the object being to collect 3,000 shillings.

Writing from St. Vincent on May 15th, MR. W. N. SANDS said that Mr. Gideon Murray was leaving for St. Lucia on the 20th instant, while Mrs. Gideon Murray had already left for Canada, having been ordered to remain in a cooler climate for a few months. The weather had been unsettled but somewhat better on the whole. Probably less cotton and arrowroot would be planted and more sugar, Indian corn, peas and beans. Coco-nut planting was progressing especially in the Carib country. The schooner *Sunbeam* belonging Mr. B. A. Richards, which traded chiefly between St. Vincent and Barbados had been wrecked on Union Island during a gale.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, writing from Tobago on May 3rd, congratulated the staff of the CIRCULAR on the manner in which they were overcoming the mail difficulty. Almost daily showers had fallen and the April rainfall had been 7.7 inches, better than any since 1909. Everything was green and flourishing, the cacao trees were laden with flowers and the natives were busier planting corn and vegetables than ever. The Planters' Association had fixed August as the month for the visit of the Board of Agriculture to Tobago. They protested against the produce tax which affected only one class of tax-payer, and it was such that the cacao tax had increased to £5 with a £50 bond in a view to checking the purchase of stolen cacao.

TRINIDAD.—In a letter dated May 17th MR. TRIPP reported that the extremely heavy wet weather had been succeeded by bright and sunny days, with a strong trade wind, a condition which while conferring benefit on cacao and cane cultivation would assist in the reaping of the sugar cane. Prices of cacao locally had fallen fully in ratio to those advised from New York and London, and rates for ordinary were \$13.50, and for estates \$13.65. A combination of large country traders, mostly Chinese, who a short time ago were holding large stocks against the merchant exporters for a rise of anything over \$17.50, which was at first successful, had now had a somewhat bitter experience, and this first experiment of a rittig to command prices was hardly likely to be repeated in the near future. News of another serious casualty to a Trinidadian had come. This time it was of Lieut. Charles Graham Haynes, son of the late C. F. Haynes, who, according to the telegram from the War Office had been very seriously wounded. He had been in England from the age of eight years. The best wishes for his recovery were tendered to his widowed mother and family. The Balance Sheet of the Colony showed a surplus on the 31st December of £95,459 4s. 8d. The mongoose pest had again become really serious. The Agricultural Society were, therefore, offering a reward of \$25 for the best mongoose trap which could be offered for sale at a reasonable price.

#### DEATHS.

Davson. Killed in action, near Ypres, on the 13th May, Lieutenant T. Gordon Davson, Royal Horse Guards, aged 26, youngest son of the late Sir Henry Davson and of Lady Davson, of 20, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.

#### OUR LIBRARY.

The Editor is glad to receive copies of publications relating to the colonies, photographs of West Indian scenery, or of local events of topical interest, and donations towards the Library Fund, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

Practical White Sugar Manufacture, or the Manufacture of Plantation White Sugar directly from the Sugar Cane. H. C. Prinsen Geerligs, Ph.D. Norman Rodger, London. 184 + iv. pp., 92 in. x 5 1/2 in., 12s. 6d. net.

The subject of the manufacture of a white sugar suitable for consumption from the sugar cane without the intermediary of the refinery has come into vogue to a considerable extent, and the financial gain to be attained promises to bring this description of manufacture into special prominence in cane producing countries which hitherto have contented themselves with the manufacture of sugar for refinery purposes. As Dr. Geerligs points out, the direct production of white sugar from the cane juice is nothing new. Centuries ago, a species of soft white sugar came into the market, in the form of loaves, in which, subsequent to the process of draining, washing was performed by the gradual percolation of water through the crystalline mass. A soft white sugar was thus produced at, as it may be imagined, a considerable loss of sugar, and which would be unsuited for the modern requirements of the general consumer. In some countries, such as Brazil, where local high prices due to high customs protection exists, white sugar has all along been made with modern appliances, but at a cost and quality which prohibits its competition in the world's market with refined sugar. In the last few years, however, attention has been paid to the subject by practical scientific sugar makers, with the result that the production of white granulated sugar direct from the sugar cane has become a working proposition even with an open market. Mauritius turns out a considerable proportion of its crop in this form, while in Java 76 per

cent. of the 1914 crop consisted of this variety of sugar as against 35 per cent. in 1906. Indeed, during the last seven months Java white crystals have figured largely in our own sugar supplies. Dr. Prinsen Geerlig's book thus comes at a particularly happy time. No exception can possibly be taken to the statement that what Dr. Geerlig's does not know on the subject is not worth knowing, and in the work under review he has given us, in his concise practical way, an account of all the salient points connected with the manufacture of plantation sugar. The work is another addition to Mr. Norman Rodger's excellently got up list of sugar publications.

[Copies of the above book can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London E.C., price 12s. 6d. each, or post free 13s.]

### Want.

Wanted.—Black Nurse to accompany lady and children to Trinidad, sailing 17th June.—Apply Mrs. Fuller, 6, Kew Gardens Road, Kew, Surrey.

### WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 21st, "Showery weather." British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 28th, "Weather favourable." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended May 5th, Port Antonio "Fine," Kingston "Fine." Week ended May 12th, Port Antonio "Fine," Kingston "Fine." Trinidad (The Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd.), May 27th "Weather showery."

### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Gordon, Grant and Co., Ltd.

The capital of this company, which was established in Trinidad in 1872 and incorporated in 1911, is \$2,400,000.00, of which \$1,164,433.60 is paid up (221,507 ordinary shares and 221,500 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each). The net profit for 1914, after providing for Directors' fees, salaries, working expenses and bad debts was \$191,423.64, making with \$134,738.33 brought in from last account \$326,161.97. The dividend on the preference and ordinary shares to December 31st, 1913, absorbed \$63,792.00 and \$63,794.02 respectively, and a bonus to the staff \$1,077.40, leaving a balance of \$168,303.13 available for distribution. Out of this the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on both the preference and ordinary shares, which will absorb \$127,586.02, and leave a balance of \$39,017.11 to be carried forward to 1915. \$29,195.42 was placed to Reserve out of profits during 1914, bringing the total Reserve Fund to \$50,000. In their Report which, with the accounts, was adopted on May 12th, the Directors state that the accounts generally show satisfactory results, towards which the various departments have contributed. The outbreak of war brought about an entire change in the transaction of both export and import business, which however maintained fully their previous volume. In comparison with other estates, the various sugar, cacao and coco-nut properties owned by the company show good results. At the General Meeting Messrs. Henry Foderingham Smith, John James McLeod and Joseph Brown retired, but were re-elected.

Dividend		Latest Quotations.		Prices
				May 31
4 %	Antigua	4 %	Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2 %	Barbados	3 1/2 %	Redeemable 1915-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana	4 %	Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana	3 %	Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada	4 %	Redeemable 1917-42	96 1/2
4 %	Jamaica	4 %	Redeemable 1934	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 %	Redeemable 1919-49	93 1/2
3 %	Jamaica	3 %	Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia	4 %	Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad	4 %	Redeemable 1917-42	94 1/2
3 %	Trinidad	3 %	Redeemable 1922-44	74
6 %	The Colonial Bank	6 %		5 1/2
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	3 %		76
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	3 %		90
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	4 1/2 %		100
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 3 % Debentures	3 %		99 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	4 1/2 %		100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	6 %		100
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	6 %		103 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	7 %		7 1/2
4 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	4 %		6 1/2
4 %	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	4 %		1 1/2
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	7 %		104-105
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Perp. Pref.	4 %		77 1/2
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	4 %		85
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	4 1/2 %		88
7 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	7 1/2 %		84
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. 1st Pref.	6 1/2 %		84
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd "	6 1/2 %		84
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	5 %		99 1/2

### THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Danube* (Commander G. A. Mackenzie), Tilbury, May 17th:—

Hon. & Mrs. J. E. Foote	Dr. Florissac	Mr. R. Malcolm
Mr. & Mrs. M. Garnett	Rev. & Mrs. Gardiner	Mr. P. P. Maus
Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Perkins	Mr. S. Holt	Mr. R. N. Munson
Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson	Mr. W. E. Harris	Mr. J. Olden
Miss Atkinson	Miss T. Herrera	Rev. & Mrs. C. Pritchard
Mrs. E. Abraham	Mr. J. D. Henry	Mr. D. Roskilly
Mrs. Bruce	Mr. E. W. Harris	Mr. J. Sharpe
Miss Bennett	Rev. F. Harding	Dr. and Mrs. Schenk
Mr. A. E. Bradley	Mr. H. A. Hodge	Miss Schenk
Rev. D. Calvert	Mr. H. C. James	Dr. & Mrs. C. Sills
Mr. J. H. Doyle	Miss E. Lowe	Mr. J. W. Steilens
Mr. F. Duff	Lieut. J. St. G. Lilley	Rev. C. Vernon
Miss Deacon	Capt. & Mrs. J. Moon	Mr. G. Weitzmann
Mr. T. East	Miss Moon	Miss Isabel Veeroyed
Mr. F. Freese		

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Danube*, June 2nd:—

Mrs. E. B. Thomas                      Mr. H. A. J. Augier

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, June 30th:—

Dr. R. P. Weldon

Mr. G. D. Bailey, Assistant Government Secretary of British Guiana, writes that the West India Committee Map of the West Indies is found useful in the colony, especially in schools. The Manager of the Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Nassau, New Providence, stated: "That the map is now placed in a conspicuous position in his office and is frequently consulted by himself and his clients." He adds, "We take this opportunity of again expressing how greatly we value the Committee's Map of the West Indies, which is quite superior to any we have seen."

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. F. J. Evans	His Honour Leslie Jarvis
Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. A. S. Kernahan
H. E. Sir H. Hesketh	Hon. J. Freeland Four	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Bell, K.C.M.G.	Mr. G. Graf	Mr. W. F. Samuel
Rev. R. Bracey	Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. W. F. Samuel
Mr. A. Campbell	Mr. E. A. H. Haggar	Mr. W. Smith
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Hon. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O.
Mr. Cecil H. Chambers	Mr. D. L. Johnson	

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Mr. T. E. Ward, Junior Conservative Club, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. from the 8th of August last. The War Loan is quoted at 94½, Consols at 66½.

**SUGAR**—The old story of the happening of the unexpected is being repeated in connection with the Cuban crop. Three months ago everything pointed to the impossibility of the original estimate of 2,600,000 being realized, and a 250,000 ton shortage was looked upon as being practically certain. The last advices, however, advise the crop as being only 120,000 tons short of last year's production to the same date, and with double the number of factories working than was then the case, the original estimate will, no doubt, be made. It is now especially interesting to compare the position of sugar in the two great consuming centres, the United Kingdom and the United States, as regards stocks and consumption. In the United Kingdom, on the 30th of April, the stocks of this country were 343,000 tons, as compared with 278,000 tons at the same date last year. The consumption for the four months of the present year has been 596,500 tons as compared with 504,924 tons for the same period last year, an apparently considerable increase, due to the abnormal retaining in bond from an anticipated reduction of the sugar duties last year, and to an increase this year in private stocks due to expectation of an increased duty. Anyway, it may be taken that the consumption for the first four months of this year has not been less than the January-April consumption of last year.

In the United States, under date May 19, Messrs. Willett and Gray give the total stocks at the three Atlantic ports and New Orleans as 425,229 tons as against 337,620 tons for the corresponding date of last year. There is also no evidence of any decrease in consumption. The solid fact is thus presented that although the world outside the enemy countries has been deprived of upwards of 2,000,000 tons of sugar, in no way have the United Kingdom and the United States fallen short in their sugar supply, nor has their consumption diminished. The only effect has been that the price of sugar in the United Kingdom is 70 per cent. above last year's price and in the United States 53 per cent. above, the difference in the relative increments being due to the State prohibition of private imports in the United Kingdom. The American and British consumers are now paying, and evidently can afford to pay, a price which has caused a stream of sugar to be deflected from east to west. Thus from last crop Java sent 266,400 tons to the United Kingdom and Europe against 305 tons the previous crop; Hong Kong, China, Japan, British India and Australia having had to suffer. As further illustration of this Mauritius shipped, according to the *Planters' and Commercial Gazette*, between the 1st August, 1914, and the 26th March, 1915, 181,816 metric tons to Great Britain as against 26,017 tons for the same period of the previous year. Conversely, the shipments to India were only 37,220 tons as against 128,248 tons. It must be remembered, however, in this connection, that 100,000 tons of the 181,816 tons was sold under commandeur to the British Government. India however is now said to have secured a considerable tonnage from the coming Java crop, although it is not likely that that country will pay the price to obtain their usual supply. In Mauritius the Indian buyers of new crop sugar disappeared from the market directly the price began to rise as the result of their buyings.

It is reported that the beet sowings on the Continent for the coming crop are for the Convention countries, excluding France, Russia and Belgium, 32.2 per cent. less than last year, and for the countries outside of the Convention, excluding Spain, Serbia and Great Britain, an increase of 3 per cent. It is also stated that beet seed is being imported into Belgium from Germany for the purpose of planting up the beet area at present in possession of the enemy. Writing under date May 28th, M. Georges Dureau states that the French beet crop has been extraordinarily prolonged, one factory in the Amiens district being still at work on the 17th of May. As regards the sowings for next crop, M. Dureau says that this is progressing, although kept back from want of labour and other causes.

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Apr. 32.		Jan. 1 to Apr. 24.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar	27,326	20,092 Tons	2,910	4,141 Tons.
Molasses	...	627 Puns.	...	...
Rum	1,501,893	1,109,260 Proof Galls.	229,470	487,695 Galls.
Molascuit, Ac.	627	783 Tons.	...	...
Cacao	25,922	23,357 lbs.	7,794,464	2,641,632 Lbs.
Coffee	40,052	117,328 "	3,361,568	4,709,712 "
Coco-nuts	697,576	693,886 No.	9,563,038	9,231,630 No.
Oranges	...	...	1,035,950	1,798,750
Bananas	...	...	1,987,220	4,300,923 Stems.
Colton	...	...	21,927	3,592 Lbs.
Pimento	...	...	20,203	42,390 Cwts.
Guigar	...	...	2,253	8,868 "
Honey	...	...	5,977	75,060 Galls.
Dyewoods	...	...	3,527	20,203 Tons.
Gold	19,003	19,285 ozs.	...	...
Diamonds	...	3,403 Carats.	...	...
Rice	2,998,048	6,971,527 lbs.	...	...
Balala	451,100	273,051 "	...	...
Rubber	825	...	...	...
Timber	37,524	87,403 cubic ft.	...	...
Lumber	10,374	121,416 ft.	...	...
Lime (hydrate of)	3,358	...	...	...

Trinidad.		Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to May 3.		Jan. 1 to Apr. 29.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar	14,671	19,580 Tons.	9,478	11,006 Tons
Molasses	776	1,493 Puns.	8,785	32,115 Puns
Rum	154	340 "	...	...
Coco-nuts	2,670,775	4,833,185 No.	...	...
Asphalt	16,763	48,207 Tons.	...	...
Manjak	103	69 "	...	...
Bilers	4,601	6,176 Cases	...	...
Coffee	10,240	4,480 lbs.	...	...
Crude Petrol	100,447	5,236,793 Galls.	...	...
Cacao	29,964,000	41,279,000 lbs.	9,080,640	10,120,320 lbs.
Colton	...	...	35	551 Bales
Seed	...	...	790	1,767 Bags.
Copra	8,317	2,429 Bags.	...	...
Spice	...	...	715,925	668,945 lbs.
Nola	...	...	3,160	2,900 "

Dominica.		Grenada.		
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.		Oct. 1 to Apr. 18.		
1914.	1915.	1914/15	1913/14	
Cacao	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.	...	...
Limes	45,744	44,820 barrels.	...	...
Lime Juice, raw	379,875	336,728 galls.	...	...
concentrated	148,179	158,974 "	...	...
Citrate of	3,191	4,753 cwt.	...	...
Lime Oil, distilled	3,964	3,370 galls.	...	...
Mustard	1,619	1,505 "	...	...
Bananas	82,134	77,903 feet.	...	...
Coconuts	3,780	4,266 stems	...	...
	554,549	448,747 No.	...	...

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 5s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

but will probably be at least 30 per cent. less in extent than last year.

In a recent Summary it was pointed out that the probable effect of the vodka prohibition in Russia would be an increase in the consumption of sugar. A Report of the Refiners' Association of that country shows that the consumption had increased since the war and the vodka prohibition at the rate of 12 per cent.

The fact of Italy coming into the war will make little difference to the sugar market. With a consumption of about 200,000 tons, she has about 150,000 tons of sugar to export, which will probably be retained at home, and her Mediterranean customers will have to do without.

On account of the Whitsuntide Holiday no sales took place in the London market until the 28th ult., when a large quantity of grocery crystallised was put up to auction. Fine qualities were in good demand at full to dearer rates, but the value of other kinds was hardly maintained. 4,460 bags Trinidad crystallised were part sold at 27s. 3d. to 28s.; 2,732 bags Jamaica of low quality part sold at 24s. 6d.; 2,400 bags St. Lucia part sold at 26s.; and 763 bags Antigua part sold at 26s. 763 bags of Antigua were bought in, and 1,246 bags of Demerara crystallised were part sold at 26s. 3d. to 28s. 6d. 196 bags of Demerara syrups were sold at 18s. 9d., and 1,320 pockets white Mozambique at 20s. To-day upwards of 1,100 tons of grocery crystallised were offered for sale. There was a fair demand and the quantity was mostly sold at a drop of 3d. per cwt. Jamaica crystallised fetched 24s. to 25s. 6d., Trinidad 26s. to 26s. 3d., Demerara, 26s. to 28s. 3d., and Antigua 25s. 9d. to 26s. Some Demerara syrups sold at 18s. 9d. to 19s. The price of Tate's cubes remains at 31s., with White Javas at 26s. 9d.

The statistics of West India sugar from Jan. 1st to May 22nd are as follows:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Imports	15,828	15,601	17,516	14,859	19,889	Tons
Deliveries	14,888	11,251	10,601	11,908	13,625	"
Stock,	6,949	16,955	8,664	7,440	10,619	"

In the New York market, with the exception of a slight drop to \$4.83 for duty paid 96° sugars, followed by an immediate recovery on the following day, the New York market has remained steady at \$4.89 for 96° and \$5.90 for granulated. A further sale of 50,000 tons of Cubans for Great Britain for June delivery is reported at \$3.60 f.o.b. Cuba, and there are rumours of an additional sale of 30,000 tons to the same buyers at \$3.75 f.o.b. for July delivery.

**RUM**—The Jamaica market has been quiet with prices ranging from 3s. for common to 3s. 8d. for fine. Proof kinds are very firm, and sales of Demerara have been effected at the previous rate of 2s. 3d. per proof gallon. Stocks in London of Jamaica have materially increased, although still largely below the figures of last year at this time.

Stocks in London on May 22nd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica	4,474	7,148	5,565	7,546	9,329	Puns
Demerara	8,292	10,789	7,860	7,155	6,520	"
Total, all kinds	19,407	24,944	20,983	22,027	25,548	"

**CACAO**—There were no sales since the 18th ult. until to-day when 10,064 bags were put up to auction, including 4,711 of British West Indian. The market was flat with few sales. Trinidad sold at 82s., a decline of 3s.; Grenada suffered a drop of 5s., selling at 73s. to 79s. Some Demerara sold at 78s. to 81s. The bulk of that put up for sale was bought in.

The stocks in London on May 22nd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Trinidad	5,225	8,898	7,491	7,997	5,714	Bags.
Grenada	5,141	14,542	7,499	6,120	18,032	"
Total, all kinds	59,973	101,683	84,668	116,023	127,485	"

**COTTON**—Business in connection with the cotton market continues dull. Although, however, there is very

little doing, prices remain comparatively steady. Since our last report about 60 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been sold, chiefly St. Vincent at 17d., with a few Montserrat at 14d. The Board of Trade returns show that from the 1st of January up to the 28th May, 1,079 bales of West Indian cotton have been imported into the United Kingdom. Acting on the guarantee of the Fine Spinners' of a minimum price for West Indian cotton referred to in our last report the British Cotton Growing Association have cabled to the West Indies recommending the Planters to maintain their cotton cultivation.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil—Distilled has been extremely scarce, and 4s. to 4s. 6d. per lb. has been paid for the small lots available. Handpressed is steady with small sales at 6s. 6d. per lb. Lime Juice—Raw is very scarce, and small sales of ordinary to fair Dominica have been effected at 3s. to 3s. 3d. per gallon. There is no business to report in Concentrated. Citrate of Lime is quoted at £24 to £25 c.i.f. New York.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs are unchanged at 100's/80's 4½d. to 5½d., 120's/100's at 4½d. to 4½d.; 140's/120's at 4½d. to 4½d. Mace, good to fine may be quoted at 2s. to 2s. 10d. red to good, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; broken 9d. to 1s. 4d., as at date of last Summary. Pimento, fair to good, 2d. to 2½d.; ordinary to middling, 1½d. to 2d. Ginger—Jamaica, ordinary to middling, 55s. to 60s.; good to fine, 65s. to 70s.

**ARROWROOT**—No transactions beyond small sales of St. Vincent have been reported during the fortnight; price 2½d. to 4½d. for St. Vincent.

**COPRA** The market for copra has been dull, and sales have been made at a decline on previous figures. Fair merchantable West Indian may be quoted at £23 15s.

**COCO NUT OIL**—Little or no demand. Ceylon is quoted at 42s. or 43s. per ton.

**RUBBER**—The rubber market has been very dull, and little business has been done. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 2s. 4½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 4d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 7½d., with soft at 2s. 2½d. The value of Castilla sheet is 2s., with scrap at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.

**BALATA**—West Indian sheet may be quoted at 2s. 4½d. sellers' price for spot; Venezuela block, spot 1s. 11½d., c.i.f. 11 10½d.

**HONEY** There have been no auction sales during the fortnight. Values may be quoted at 30s. to 40s. for ordinary varieties, with £5 for dark.

**TIMBER**—British Guiana Greenheart, unchanged at £11 to £13 per ton.

**WOODS** Honduras Cedar may be quoted at 4d. to 5½d. per foot; Lignum Vitae, West Indian, £3 to £5 per ton. Satinwood, 9d. to 1s. 6d. per foot. Jamaica Logwood, £1 10s. to £3 5s. per ton; Fustic £3 10s. to £5.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—No change to report. Water White is quoted at 9½d., and American at 8½d.

June 1st, 1915.

ALGERNON B. ASPINALL.

In Madagascar citrus fruits grow in a wild state, oranges and lemons of no fixed varieties are most common on the east coast, and are found either near the shore in sandy soil, or in the interior in compact soil, more or less poor and arid. According to the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, the quality of the fruit, excepting the lemons, is generally poor. On the west coast there is an orange tree which contains little juice, and is attacked by a small larva which eats the pulp. The tree is also attacked by a larva or moth which devours the leaves completely. A small lemon, about the size of a hen's egg also grows on the north-west coast.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

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LONDON, E.C.4.

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June 14th, 1915.

### EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

**T**HE appointment of MR. JAMES MCNEILL to the Council of the Governor-General of India so soon after the publication of his report on the conditions of Indian immigrants in the British West Indies, Fiji and Surinam, is an indication of the interest which is taken in the question of emigration in India. It will be remembered that the subject was frequently raised by the late MR. GOKHALE, and that in 1912 a resolution against the continuance of East Indian emigration, of which he was the mover, was only defeated in the Council by a narrow margin. In MR. GOKHALE the opponents of emigration have lost their most active leader, but his mantle has fallen on other shoulders, and, from the information before us, it is certain that a discussion will be raised in the Council on the report of MR. MCNEILL and his colleague MR. CHIMMAN LAL. This will, however, be postponed until after the war. There is, therefore, still time for the colonies receiving East Indian emigrants to consider the question in all its bearings and to meet any reasonable objections by the amendment of their Immigration Ordinances where it may appear desirable. To deal fully with the pros and cons of East Indian immigration would require more space than we can devote to the subject in the present CIRCULAR. It must, however, be recognised that in native circles in India there is a marked

objection to the entire system, partly on economic and partly on sentimental grounds, which has no doubt been strengthened by the treatment of East Indians in Natal and certain of the Dominions. But while the people of the Dominions have bolted and barred the door against their East Indian fellow subjects, certain of our Crown Colonies welcome immigrants with open arms and offer them every inducement to remain as settlers, with the result that in Trinidad one-third, and in British Guiana nearly half of the population is East Indian. The report of MR. MCNEILL and MR. CHIMMAN LAL should go far towards assuring our friends in India of the excellence of the system of immigration prevailing in British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica. "We are convinced," say these gentlemen, "that a careful study of the facts elicited during our enquiry will result in the conclusion that its advantages have far outweighed its disadvantages. The great majority of emigrants exchanged grinding poverty with practically no hope of betterment for a condition varying from simple but secured comfort to solid prosperity. Emigrants live under very much better conditions than their relatives in India, and have had opportunities of prospering which exceeded their own wildest hopes. They become citizens of the colonies to which they emigrated, and both they and their descendants have attained to positions commanding general respect and consideration." At the same time the Commissioners make recommendations for improving the system, which the Legislative Councils of the Colonies would do well to adopt as far as possible without delay. In this connection the West Indian proprietors resident in London who are interested in East Indian immigration have had the advantage during the past fortnight of a visit from MR. THOMAS HUGHES, of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Australia, who has a wide experience of labour conditions in Fiji, and has just returned from the latest of several visits to India, in the course of which he interviewed the leading officials with regard to emigration to the Crown Colonies. MR. HUGHES holds the view that the chief objection to emigration is the clauses in the Ordinances which provide for imprisonment in certain cases for labour offences. It will be recalled that MR. MCNEILL and MR. CHIMMAN LAL, in their report recommend that provisions which they consider unduly rigorous and restrictive should be expunged from the Ordinances, and that the punishments prescribed should in most cases be reduced, and provision made for the recovery of fines in small instalments. It may be noted in this connection that in 1912 the local Indian Immigration



Ordinance in Fiji was amended by deleting from the East Indian agreements the liability of the immigrants to be sent to gaol for purely labour offences, except where three previous convictions proved the labourer to be an habitual idler. This proposed amendment met with a good deal of opposition from estates' managers who believed that the efficacy of their labour supply would suffer; but the figures which, through the courtesy of MR. HUGHES, we are able to publish elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR, show that far from this being the case the attendance of the men at work since the amendment became operative in May, 1912, has actually increased from 90.59 to 92.55 per cent., while, despite the increased proportion working, the average daily earnings have been fully maintained. In view of these very remarkable results it should be a matter for early and very serious consideration of the Legislatures in the Colonies concerned whether it would not be desirable to amend the Ordinances by the deletion of the imprisonment clauses, except in the case of habitual offenders against whom three previous convictions have been recorded.

#### THE TRADE OF DOMINICA.

**W**E are indebted to MR. E. A. AGAR, our Hon. Correspondent in Dominica, for a comparative table of the island's trade for the last two years. It shows the overwhelming dependence of Dominica on the lime industry, the value of the lime products exported having reached the value of £187,031, while that of the exports of cacao, which stands next in order of importance, was £20,183 only. The other articles of export are comparatively negligible both in quantity and value, the more important of the minor products being coconuts £1,735, Bay oil £1,219, and lumber £1,041. The cacao industry unfortunately remains practically stationary, the exports ten years ago having been 9,675 cwt. valued at £20,884 or almost the same as they were last year, and Mr. Joseph Jones the Curator of the local Botanic Station, states that, under existing conditions there appears to be no hope of its further development. The lesser industries on the other hand show some progress; but their extent is so small that they do not affect the general situation. Large areas have been planted under coco-nuts. Some years must elapse before they swell the export returns to any appreciable extent. Here again then we are faced with an island almost entirely dependent on a single industry—a dangerous state of affairs as those colonies know to their cost which pinned their faith in the old days exclusively on sugar. The price of lime products promises to be remunerative for many years to come; but the planters will do well to remember that large areas are being planted under this crop in other parts of the tropical world, and that any parasitical or other pest affecting the trees would spell little short of disaster. We mention this because we feel

that the Botanic Department deserve the fullest support in their efforts to encourage in every possible way the development of subsidiary industries. We had hoped that a revival of the sugar industry, which practically came to an end some years ago when MR. POTTER cropped his estate at Goodwill, might have been possible, given the favourable conditions as to prices. We gather, however, from the reports of DR. H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS, MR. F. POTTER himself, and MR. A. R. C. LOCKHART, which are published elsewhere in the present issue that it is out of the question, owing to considerations of labour. But we must not look for trouble. Thanks to its rapidly extending lime industry Dominica is enjoying great prosperity and the Botanic Department can be relied upon to secure a continuance of the healthy condition of the trees, while some years must elapse before the supply of lime products so far exceeds the demand as to cause any serious relapse in the present remunerative quotations. To return to MR. AGAR's figures it will be noted that the total volume of trade of the island in 1914 was £442,960, a most gratifying figure compared with £149,707, at which it stood ten years ago. The increase in the value of local exports in 1914 over those of the preceding year was no less than £39,678. This was due entirely to the high value of lime products and to new areas coming into bearing, which resulted in a falling off of 2,000 barrels only, in spite of the crop having been remarkably poor. With regard to imports, an increase is shown under every class except that of alcoholic liquors—which we fear is attributable to an increase in the local manufacture of rum rather than to a wave of temperance. The United Kingdom still enjoys a lion's share of the island's trade, and though the exports to the United Kingdom and British Dominions and Possessions fell from 63 per cent. in 1913 to 55 per cent. in 1914, the imports from Great Britain and her colonies rose in the same years from 65 per cent. to 69 per cent. Exports to Canada showed a notable increase, though the figures for 1913 and 1914 are only £1,405 and £3,395 respectively, while the Dominion found a better market in Dominica in 1914 than in the preceding year owing to the preferential trade agreement. Leaving on one side the dependence of Dominica upon a single industry, the outlook is full of promise and with the progressive policy in the matter of road development, which we believe that MR. A. P. MAHAFFY will adopt, we may look with confidence for a period of great prosperity before the island, provided always that its staple industry receives no check. With reference to the construction of roads it is perhaps not without significance that the arrival of a new and energetic Administrator should have synchronised with that of the first road-roller of any size. Of good augury, too, is the appointment of MR. G. W. PENRICE, one of the more recent settlers, who have hitherto had good cause for complaint at not being represented in the Legislature, to the local Legislative Council and also to the Federal Council.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

A meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on Thursday, June 10th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members present were, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. De Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D'E. Spooner, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The following were admitted members of the West India Committee :—

Names.	Proposers and Seconders.
Hon. F. C. Wells Durrant K.C., (Bahamas)	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell { Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. H. Graham	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Yearwood, (Barbados)	{ Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.

The following letters from the Earl of Harewood and Lady Lubbock were read :—

Dear Sir,  
I shall be much obliged if you will take an early opportunity of informing the Committee that I am deeply sensible of the honour they have done me in electing me President.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) HAREWOOD.

Dear Mr. Aspinall,

I have to thank you for sending me a copy of the Resolution passed at the General Meeting of the West India Committee recording their sense of sorrow at the death of my beloved husband, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

I am deeply touched by this testimony to the deep and abiding regard and esteem in which his memory is held by them.

May I venture to express the hope that his labours on behalf of the British West Indies will continue to bear fruit, under the auspices of the West India Committee in which he took so great an interest.

I remain, yours very truly,  
(Signed) CONSTANCE A. LUBBOCK.

The following resolution of sympathy with the relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Dredge was passed :

The Executive of the West India Committee desires to record its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Alan Dredge their Hon. Correspondent in British Honduras, and of Mrs. Dredge, through the dastardly act of the enemy in sinking the R.M.S. *Lusitania* on Friday, May 7th, and instructs the Secretary to convey to Mr. and Mrs. Dredge's relatives the expression of its sympathy in the loss which they have sustained.

The mail sub-Committee appointed at the preceding meeting submitted the following resolution :

That in view of the exceptional conditions likely to prevail until some time after the termination of the war it is desirable that an endeavour be made at the proper time to secure the extension from year to year of the present mail contract, and that before any negotiations are entered into the views of the West Indies should be ascertained.

After discussion the Secretary was instructed to

transmit copies of the resolution to the Chambers of Commerce in the West Indies.

A letter from the Secretary of State dated June 2nd was read, stating that it was hoped that the first steamer carrying Indian emigrants to British Guiana and Trinidad would leave India during August next. The Secretary then read a report of proceedings at a meeting of proprietors interested in immigration. A letter was read from the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarding copies of a report by Dr. E. S. Marshall on Ankylostomiasis in Antigua, and inviting the co-operation of estates proprietors towards stamping out the disease. It was pointed out that the proprietors were already doing much in this direction in British Guiana and Trinidad, and there was no doubt that the estates proprietors in Antigua would be equally willing to assist in eradicating the disease, which has a serious effect on the labour supply.

**East Indian Immigration**

A meeting of estates' proprietors interested in East Indian immigration was held at the West India Committee Rooms on Friday, June 4th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members also present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. C. H. Barr Fryer, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. Thomas Prentice, Mr. D. Wallace (Messrs. Tennants' Estates, Ltd.), Mr. F. Watson (Messrs. Kleinwort, Sons and Co.), and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The meeting was convened to meet Mr. Thomas Hughes, of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Australia, who had recently visited India. Mr. Hughes called attention to the desirability of so amending the British Guiana and Trinidad Immigration Ordinances as to abolish the penalty of imprisonment for labour offences. He pointed out that in May, 1912, an amendment of the Fiji Ordinance came into effect which deleted from the Indians' agreements their liability to be sent to gaol for purely labour offences, except in cases where three previous convictions proved the labourer to be an habitual idler, and he submitted a memorandum showing the remarkable results which had followed. In this it was shown that while imprisonment for labour offences had almost ceased, the attendance at work had actually increased; and, despite the larger proportion working, the average daily earnings had been fully maintained. The following figures were appended :—

	1911	1912	1913
No. of Indians under indenture ...	12,526	13,167	13,617
No. of sentences involving imprisonment for breaches of the Immigration Ordinance in cases by employers against labourers	416	186	26
In percentage of total convictions	% 32	% 13	% 3.5
Attendance at work—men ...	90.59	91.91	92.55
	d.	d.	d.
Earnings per day worked—men	*13.60	13.32	13.32

\* An abnormal average, the previous year being 13.17.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

### On the Western Front.

The progress of the French is most encouraging. Never did they fight better, never did they have more confidence in themselves and their cause. Their army has been welded by ten months of incessant conflict into an unconquerable instrument of war. No advance is made without the most careful preparation down to the smallest detail. In the Artois region, for instance, every section commander has a large scale map showing the entire system of German trenches, photographed by aviators. Engineers, artillery, infantry all co-operate with zeal and understanding. But for the lack of reserves some of the recent French exploits would have been more brilliant than they actually were. This is a reflection on Great Britain, which, after ten months, is still talking about the organisation of the national resources when she should be doing. Until the Allies have at least 10,000,000 fighting men to the 8,000,000 of the Central Powers, and can produce munitions, equipment, and all the other war material essential to modern armies in the field, in proportion, the goal of victory is yet far off. For in order to press an attack home it is necessary to be able to command at least ten men for each yard of the objective on the enemy's front.

### The French Successes.

In the months of incessant fighting for the possession of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, the Germans were able to construct in this sector a network of underground fortifications, the main part of which is known as "the Labyrinth." Had the recent French attacks been on a wider front so as to contain the extreme point of the Artois Hills, which is Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, and the extreme point of the Cliff of Vimy, which is Thelus, "the Labyrinth," with its elaborate system of trenches, concrete works, guns under cupolas, and machine gun pits, would have been in the position of an isolated fortress, and compelled to capitulate. A glance at the map makes it clear that the villages of Ablain, Carency, Neuville-Saint-Vaast, and Thelus, formed one whole position, extending from the spur of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette to the Cliff of Vimy, with "the Labyrinth" in the centre, and a long communication trench, which passed by the mill at Souchez, and descended the Thelus crest. The French, by their capture of Neuville, are now at the entrance of "the Labyrinth." Their objective is, of course, Lens, which is a railway centre. The sugar-works and railway station of Souchez are now in their possession.

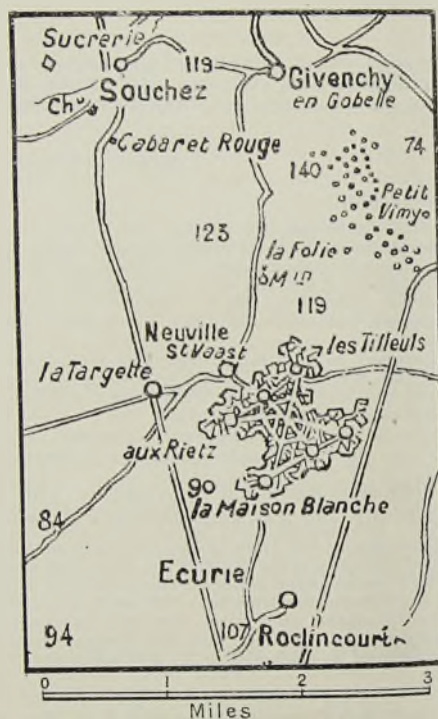
### At Hebuterne.

The renewal of fighting, in what may be called the brickfield region, is a further sign that the French offensive is gaining momentum. It will be remembered that in the winter and spring, the accounts of attacks and counter attacks in the

Albert sector were familiar features in official communiques. Then the tide of war left it and rose elsewhere. Hence the recent attack on Hebuterne, where some ground has been won, and the road reached at Serre, which is near Achiet in the vicinity of the railway junction connecting Arras, Bapaume and Cambrai, comes as a surprise. Hebuterne is itself south-west of Arras and only a few miles north of Albert.

### On the Aisne.

Tracy-le-Val, in the angle formed by the junction of the Oise and the Aisne, was, too, once an important centre of fighting. That was when our Allies were outclassed by the enemy's heavy artillery. But when they brought up large howitzers into the Aisne Valley, and the continual attempts of the opposing armies to outflank one another brought about the extension of the battle line with its centre of gravity on the Belgian frontier, there came a change. The last stirring event in this sector was the capture of Tracy-le-Val in November. A

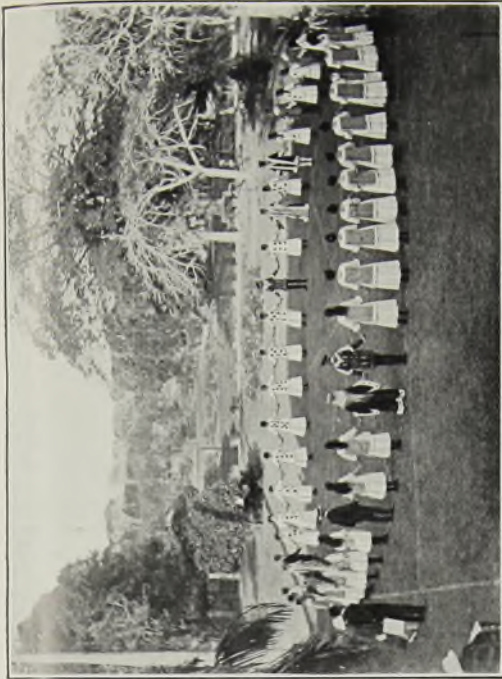


The "Labyrinth" and Souchez.

week ago, concurrently with the operations north of Arras, fighting was resumed on the heights adjoining the Moulin-sous-Touvent, east of Tracy-le-Mont. Not only were two successive lines of trenches, on a front of about three-quarters of a mile, carried with a rush, but several supporting works as well.



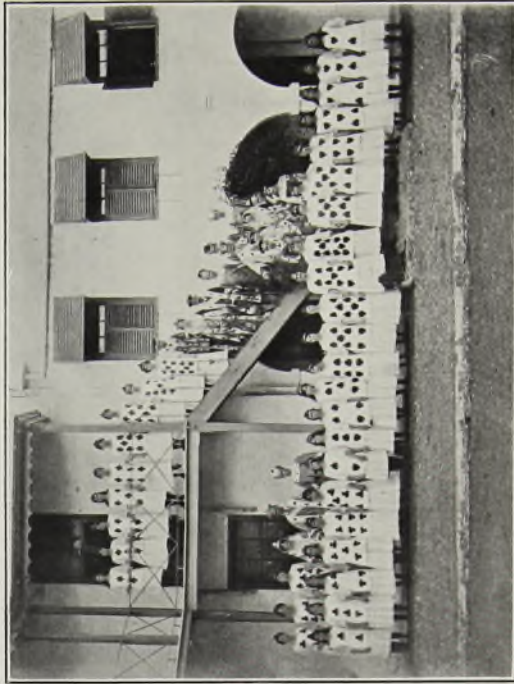
THE COURT CARDS.



BEFORE THE SHUFFLE.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.



THE LIVING CARDS.

LIVING BRIDGE IN BARBADOS.

The enemy's counter-attack was repulsed with heavy loss. In this French success the preliminary bombardment shook the moral of the enemy and destroyed his wire entanglements, which latter it does not always effect, with disastrous results to the attacking party. There was in it, too, the element of a surprise, for evidently the French were able to concentrate guns and troops without the Germans being aware of it. The reinforcements hurried up for the counter-attack were brought by motor transport from a distance of fifty miles.

#### On the Eastern Front.

In Courland stubborn fighting is proceeding on the banks of the Dubissa. In the Schwali region the enemy has been obliged to fortify his positions in order to cling to them, and in Poland he is resorting to poisonous gases to push his attacks.

In Galicia the situation is still confusing, but the latest news seems to make it clear that the Russian offensive west of the Lower San has been checked, the Germans pushing up reinforcements the moment the Tarnow-Jaroslaw railway was threatened. Their aim is to unite the two wings of their army at Mosciska, which, so far as is known, still remains in Russian hands, and to link up with the Austrians, who are in the Hussakow district. The offensive of these has, however, been checked. In Middle Galicia our Allies are falling back on the Dniester between Mikolajow and Tyoncnitz. To the east of Stryj the Austrians forced a passage near the junction of the Swica and Dniester, and are extending towards the Stanislaw-Lemberg railway on the south, as the Germans are extending to the Mosciska-Lemberg railway on the north. The Germanic troops were, however, driven back across the Dniester at Zurawno, but managed to cross the river again further to the south-east on the Bukovina boundary at Zaleszczyki. On the Pruth the Russians still maintain their positions, which block the line of approach towards Stanislaw by the Jablonitza Pass. That our Allies lack sufficient guns and high explosives is a matter of common knowledge. Their courage and tenacity in the circumstances are magnificent.

So well supplied are the Germans with munitions that 700,000 projectiles fell on Przemyśl in four hours.

#### On the Italian Front.

By pushing rapidly to the River Isonzo, liberating Italian towns on the way, our new Ally has made her "Aisne front" in the enemy's territory, her last line of trenches being the enemy's first line. She will, probably, content herself by acting on the defensive, with sufficient reserves in hand to prevent the Austrians from breaking through, while pushing her attack on the Dual Monarchy on lines which promise greater results at less cost, and, perhaps, the co-operation of Serbia and Montenegro. On the lower reaches of the river she is aided by her

fleet, which has enabled her to capture Monfalcone with its naval yards and military depots. On the other side she has cut off Cattaro by destroying the railway. The Adriatic being narrow, her ships can go into harbour at night. So, in her case, the submarine menace is minimised.

#### In the Dardanelles.

It was supposed that the fighting in the Gallipoli Peninsula would not assume the trench character familiar on the Western front, because the Naval guns would prevent it. But the unexpected has happened. Accounts from this theatre of war read like accounts from France and Belgium. Attacks and counter-attacks, mines and counter-mines, bomb-throwing, ground captured and re-captured, always with heavy losses, particularly to the Turks, who, under their German task-masters, advance in close formation. The French forces who landed at Cape Helles, were met by a fierce Turkish counter-offensive, which threatened to hurl them back into the sea. But, owing to the fine spirit of General Vandenberg, who, though twice seriously wounded, continued to lead them, they held their ground. The latest news is most suggestive as to the desperate nature of the task set the Allied forces here, for a general attack on the Turkish trenches had to be abandoned, together with positions captured by Territorials and Indians, because the wire entanglements in one part had not been destroyed by our artillery. A heavy enflading fire, also, made the position of the Naval Brigade impossible, and it had to be withdrawn. In spite of these checks, however, the operations in which the French second division took part resulted in an advance of 500 yards.

#### Fighting in Mesopotamia.

The British expedition in this region is making a steady advance. The Turkish failure, and rout, in front of Shaiba on the Euphrates line, has had a marked effect on the activity and enterprise of the column on the Tigris. General Townshend has occupied a town, sixty-five miles north of Kurnah, and, up to date, large captures of men, war material and river craft have been made. The third column, operating in the Karun Valley, and threatening the pipe-line of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, was, owing to a rapid rise in the river and violent sandstorms, able to retire on Amarah before the British could come up with it. As, however, by that move the Turks evacuated Persian territory in Arabistan, our end was gained with comparative ease.

#### The War in the Air.

The long-threatened Zeppelin attack, which was to damage London so seriously as to frighten its inhabitants into crouching in their cellars, ended in a fiasco. Altogether ninety bombs were dropped. In contrast to this aerial demonstration French aviators raided Ludwigshaven, on the Rhine, their

objective being the factory of the Baden Aniline Dye Company, which manufactures on a large scale the poisonous gases used by the enemy on both fronts. As smoke was seen to issue from the works in such volumes as to enshroud the town, it may be taken for granted that the French bombs did some material damage, as well as terrifying the employees of the firm, if not causing loss of life by asphyxiation. This was one of the most remarkable aerial feats of the war. Unfortunately one pilot was compelled by engine trouble to descend in the first part of his 250 mile journey home, but he was able to destroy his machine before being taken prisoner.

The enemy still continues to raid the south-east coasts of England, but without much result, though in one case there were 47 casualties.

It is believed that two of the Zeppelins concerned in these outrages have been destroyed. An attack was made by Lieutenants J. P. Wilson and J. S. Mills, of the Royal Navy, on the airship shed near Brussels. It was set on fire, and as the flames reached a great height, it is believed that a Zeppelin went up in them. A splendid feat was performed by Lieut. R. A. J. Warneford, R.N., on the same night. In pursuing a dirigible, which tried hard to escape, he manœuvred until he was directly above it. Then he dived suddenly so as to drop his bomb on the Zeppelin's gas-bag, the explosion taking place as he was rapidly ascending again, and with such terrific violence that his machine got beyond his control, and he "looped the loop" involuntarily. When the machine righted itself, the forward petrol tank was empty, and so he was forced to descend in a region swarming with German troops. Nevertheless, he was able partially to refill his front tank from the rear one before the enemy surrounded him. He made his way safely to the coast, the first flying man to destroy a Zeppelin from the air. He knew that he had but one chance in a thousand of escaping with his life, and by striking pluck and dexterity he took it with complete success. Very properly he has been awarded the V.C., while the French have decorated him with the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

#### Submarine Piracy.

A German submarine has been sunk, and, of her crew, six officers and twenty-one men have been taken prisoners. No other particulars have been given. Enemy submarine piracy continues, the chief sufferers being trawlers and fishing craft of all kinds. No fewer than twenty-two of these vessels were torpedoed last week. Most of the crews were saved, but the material loss was considerable.

The total British casualties up to May 31st have been officially given as 258,069.

(To be continued.)

The Hamburg-America Line steamers *Sarina* and *Sibiria* have been purchased by the Atlantic Fruit Company.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### IV.—THE OUTLOOK IN THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(Continued from page 240).

In last CIRCULAR we published a despatch from the Governor of the Leeward Islands in reply to the West India Committee's enquiry regarding the openings in that colony for the expansion of the sugar industry. He enclosed reports from the various Presidencies on the subject. Those from Antigua, Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis were published in last issue. The report from the Acting Administrator of Dominica is given below.

[Enclosure 4.]

Government House, Dominica,  
8th February, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to Sir Hesketh Bell's despatch No. 339 of the 12th November last, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a minute by Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, President of the Dominica Agricultural and Commercial Society, forwarding letters from two members of that Society on the subject of the possible expansion of the sugar industry in this island.

2. Your Excellency will observe that in the opinion of the writers of these letters and of the Council of the Society as well as in that of Dr. Nicholls himself, it is impracticable to establish cane cultivation to any extent in Dominica.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Sd.) T. LAURENCE ROXBURGH,  
Acting Administrator.

His Excellency the Governor of Antigua.

Enclosure in Dominica despatch No. 50 of 8th February,  
1915.

DR. NICHOLLS TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.

His Honour The Acting Administrator.

I regret the delay in replying to this communication; it is due to the omission of the Vice-President, Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, in sending in his promised report, which I received some time after the day it is dated.

A meeting of the Council of the Society carefully considered the matter, and with the exception of the Vice-President, the members held that it was impracticable to re-establish the sugar industry in Dominica. It was not a question of "expansion," for the industry completely died out when Mr. Francis Potter closed his sugar factory at Goodwill some years ago.

The Vice-President and Mr. Potter undertook to write to me fully on the subject expressing their adverse views on the question submitted to the Society by the Government. I attach copies of the letters these gentlemen have written to me.

It will be seen, however, that Mr. Lockhart, as the result of his enquiries and later consideration has come to the same conclusion as his colleague, namely that it is not practicable to re-establish the sugar industry in Dominica.

I quite concur in this conclusion. The planters of the island are now engaged in prosecuting the lime and cacao industries which give remunerative returns, and it is not likely that any of them will cut down their lime and cacao trees to plant sugar cane which will give paying crops only

if a costly factory be established to get maximum returns of cane juice and to make therefrom a high class sugar.

(Sgd.) H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS,  
President Dominica Agricultural  
and Commercial Society.

29th January, 1915

Goodwill Estate, Dominica.  
19th November, 1914.

Dear Dr. Nicholls,

I am in receipt of your favour of 18th instant covering a communication from His Honour the Administrator relative to Cane Sugar Cultivation in this island.

From my experience it is not possible to cultivate canes for sugar making in this island at such a profit as to be of benefit to the grower.

The first obstacle is the scarcity of labour in general, but particularly of such labour as have a fair knowledge of how to cultivate the sugar cane. Secondly the physical formation of the island is very much against the cultivation of the sugar cane, which requires level land so that mechanical traction can be used both in the manipulation of the soil and in the easy conveyance of the canes to the factory. Thirdly, the cultivation of the sugar cane entails a large financial outlay for cultivation and for the necessary works for the manufacture of the sugar at a fair profit. To my knowledge there is no single estate on the Leeward Coast large enough to keep a factory going during say four months of the year, neither are there any estates contiguous to one another which could supply the necessary quantity of canes to a modern sugar factory. A Central Factory in Dominica would be a failure from a financial standpoint. I carried on the Goodwill Factory for eight years, and though I had the monopoly of the local market which by itself was a remunerative one, yet on the whole, with the export market at normal prices, and with normal weather for the growing of the canes, there was hardly any profit. With low prices and adverse weather the result would be disastrous, as it was with me in 1901/1902.

I certainly would not advise the cultivation of the sugar cane and manufacture of sugar for export even under present prospects when it is still possible to cultivate limes and cacao and even oranges under present circumstances.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) F. POTTER.

Castle Comfort Estate, Dominica, B.W.I.  
10th January, 1915.

Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G.,  
President Dominica Agricultural & Commercial Society.

Sir,

The enquiry of the London West India Committee as to "what room there is for the expansion of the sugar industry in each of the Leeward Islands," will, I fear, remain without an answer as far as Dominica is concerned. Most of the land on the Leeward side of the island is now under permanent crops of limes, cacao, rubber and oranges, and though at present the most thickly peopled centre the available labour supply seems quite insufficient for the wants of planters. Within the last two years the wages of agricultural labour have risen by 25 and, in some cases, 50 per cent., and though a considerable voluntary immigration from the neighbouring islands yearly augments the number of workers, yet employers declare with absolute truth that they could find work with profit to themselves, or perhaps twice as many hands as they can now obtain.

In these circumstances any suggestion for re-introducing

an industry requiring, as does sugar-growing, a large and constant supply of skilled as well as unskilled labour, must be ruled out as impracticable.

Up to two weeks ago I was under the impression that these considerations would not apply to the northern and eastern districts of the island. They did not apply sixteen years ago when I owned estates on the north-eastern coast. At that time an intelligent class of labourers, trained under a succession of Scotch managers and overseers, furnished an abundant and constant supply of labour for work on the sugar estates from Portsmouth to Hatton Garden; while, on the other hand, the soil and physical configuration are both well suited to sugar growing, so that if labour conditions remained the same there—if anywhere else in Dominica, could the sugar industry be revived with every hope of success. But after patient enquiry—and this explains the delay in acknowledging your letter of December 9th, 1914, accompanying His Excellency the Governor's despatch to the Administrator and His Honour's covering Minute to you—I have found that the lime, coco-nut and starch plantations lately established in that part of the country, and the creation of a large number of peasant holdings now give full employment to all regular workers, and that it would be impossible to open out in other directions without first securing a considerable increase in the wage-earning population of which there is no possibility at present. Yet there are large tracts still available for cane planting, for from that part of the island went the bulk of our sugar exports when Dominica was a sugar producing colony. The easy communications and the lie of the land both favour the working of the Central Factory system, and it is only to the beet sugar bounties which ruined our sugar planters that is due the abandonment of the cane cultivation in this north-eastern corner of the island. The successors of the old sugar growers have been compelled to divert employment into other channels, and a revival of the sugar industry would now be in the nature of pioneering work, for which indentured labour from India would have to be provided in order to have any chance of success.

It is with reluctance I have come to the conclusion that there is no hope under existing conditions for any attempt on our part to enter into competition for the profitable prices for cane sugar now obtaining in the English market, with the added advantages of diversifying our industries. Our practically entire reliance on only one or two products, one of which, lime juice, can only command a limited market, while the other, cacao, is now being planted in every part of the tropics, constitutes an economic danger which must give food for anxious thought.

I have, etc.,  
(Sgd.) A. R. C. LOCKHART.

Mr. James R. Boose has been appointed Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, a position, which, by his recent Imperial tours, he has shown himself admirably qualified to fill. Possessed of an engaging personality and a singular charm of manner and gifted with great persuasive powers, he will no doubt be responsible for a still further increase in the membership of the Institute which, during his connection with it as Secretary, has made remarkable progress. Mr. Boose is succeeded in the Secretaryship by Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., and formerly Colonial Secretary of the Orange River Colony, and Private Secretary to Mr. Chamberlain.

## THE LIME AND THE LEMON.

### Our Sources of Citric Acid and Oils.

To the January-March number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute Mr. W. R. Dunlop, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, contributes an extremely useful article on the lime and lemon industries as sources of citric acid and essential oils. Beginning with the economic position of the citrus industry, he points out that even the world's citrus trade is insignificant. The value of the exports of lime products from the British West Indies, including British Guiana, during the year 1913-14 was only £157,456, as against the export of similar lemon products from Sicily of £840,650.

The statement published in the *Lancet* in 1908, and reproduced in pamphlet form by the West India Committee, to the effect that "the lime, although smaller than the lemon, yields, weight for weight, a good deal more juice," and "more citric acid but less sugar," Mr. Dunlop does not altogether agree with. The *Lancet* figures gave the lime as yielding 59 per cent. of its weight, the lemon 37.5 per cent., but as the average of several observations with different classes of limes and lemons, Mr. Dunlop obtained only 51.9 per cent. of juice from the limes, as against 37.1 from the lemons. The proportions of citric acid in the juice were almost equal, 7.40 per cent. in the case of limes and 7.24 per cent. in the case of lemons. The lime contains a less amount of essential oils than the lemon, due probably to the fact that the rind is thinner.

Mr. Dunlop then gives some useful points in connection with the cultivation of limes. Flat or gently undulating lands should be chosen for the purpose, in a locality well sheltered, and situated from sea-level up to 800 feet elevation. A rainfall varying from 80 in. to 160 in. per annum is the most suitable, but if it be well distributed, 60 inches will suffice. The average temperature in the West Indies where limes thrive best is about 80°F. in the shade.

Drainage is an extremely important item from the beginning, although it is often not apparent until the estate is being worked. To this end it is important that trees be planted in straight lines. Wind-breaks are essential from the beginning, and for permanent purposes Mr. Dunlop recommends Galba (*Calophyllum Calaba*), and Pois-doux (*Inga Laurina*), whilst the sugar cane and Madura (*Glyricida maculata*) make good temporary shelters. Seedlings for planting out should be raised in nurseries.

As regards tillage, stress is laid on the fact that the lime tree is a surface feeder. Hence tillage has to be cautiously performed, and catch crops in the long run are generally disadvantageous. In manuring the first essential is to maintain the soil humus, which can be done by the careful use of green dressings, and by the application of mulch, green manure, and possibly artificial manures. It is stated, however, that as regards the actual manur-

ing of limes, very little is known. Insect pests attacking the lime have not as a rule assumed a serious aspect. Fungus troubles have been greater, and the well-known West Indian root disease occasions considerable loss in some places unless draining, trenching, liming, and the burning of diseased material are rigorously carried out.

At five years the lime comes into bearing, and it is eight or ten years before the maximum crop is reached. The period of yielding is about forty years. The yield per acre of an established lime plantation varies considerably, but in the West Indies a good average is 150 barrels of fruit of 160 lbs. each, or 24,000 lbs.

In the West Indies a barrel of limes gives 7½ gallons of juice, there being generally a considerable loss owing to the imperfect working of the mill, which may cause loss to the extent of two gallons of juice per barrel. Fresh lime juice contains 12½ to 14 oz. of citric acid per gallon. In order to reduce freight charges lime juice is generally concentrated to a citric acid content of 100 oz. to the gallon. There is considerable loss in open concentration, amounting to over 10 per cent. from destruction of the citric acid. With steam evaporation only about 2 per cent. is lost. When citrate of lime is made 76 barrels of fruit produce about 6 cwts. of citrate, or 1.18 lbs. of citrate from one gallon of juice.

The extraction of the essential oils is carried out either by "ecuellling" the limes, i.e., pressing the fruit over a spiked surface before the lime is crushed; or by distilling off the oil during concentration. The "handpressed" product has a higher market value than the "distilled"; the yield in the case of the handpressed product being about 1½ to 2 oz. per barrel of fruit, and with the distilled 4 lbs. for every 100 gallons of juice.

Mr. Dunlop then proceeds to give some interesting particulars as regards the Sicilian lemon industry, and points out that the lemon cultivation in that country and other parts of the subtropics has characteristic features. Alteration in the physical condition of the soil affects the relative yields of juice and oil, as well as the period of refining. Irrigation and protection from frost are necessary for lemon cultivation, and it is a matter of interest to lime growers that the plants are usually kept in the nurseries until three years old.

As regards yield, an average lemon grove gives 27,460 lbs. of lemons as against 24,000 lbs. in the case of limes; 10,560 lbs. of juice as against 11,550 lbs.; 634 lbs. of citric acid as against 914 and 88 lbs. of essential oils as against 65 lbs. The cost of cultivation of the lemon crop is far higher than that of the lime, and Mr. Dunlop considers that the lime can easily compete with the lemon as a source of citric acid.

Concentrated lime juice is sold on the basis of its citric acid content. A standard "pipe" is 106 gallons, containing 64 oz. of acid per gallon. A pipe is therefore equivalent to 432 lbs. of citric acid. A West Indian hogshead of concentrated juice (100



oz. of citric acid per gallon) contains about 52 gallons, and is equivalent to three-fourths of a standard pipe, of 325 lbs. of acid.

The author gives some interesting particulars of the manner in which the products of the lemon and lime industry are handled commercially, together with many points in connection with this subject, for which the reader is referred to the original paper, and draws attention to the value which West Indian orange oils might possess if their methods of production were improved.

The conclusions to which Mr. Dunlop comes are :

1. The output of lime products in the tropics, although comparatively small, is rapidly increasing. The Sicilian production of lemons is, on the other hand, stationary ; but according to the world's market, this country has increased her output of citrate at the expense of fresh lemons and *vice versa*. Lime growers can to a certain extent do the same, but are less able to exert influence in this respect.

2. An examination of figures relating to the composition of the lemon and lime shows that the lime is richer in juice and citric acid than the lemon. But the lemon generally contains more essential oil.

3. As regards cultivation the two crops differ in many respects. Lemon cultivation seems the more expensive owing to the necessity for irrigation, frost protection and handling ; but lemon products may be placed on the European markets at less expense than lime products.

4. For purpose of comparison the lemon may be regarded as yielding 634 lbs. of citric acid per acre against 914 in the case of limes. The figures for essential oils are 88 lbs. and 65 lbs. respectively.

5. In view of the probable increase in the Sicilian output of citrate, lime growers might with advantage increase their shipments of concentrated juice of uniform density (about 100 oz. of citric acid per gallon). Only raw lime juice of the best quality should be shipped. Since lime oils are used for different purposes from lemon oils, they cannot be said to come into direct competition unless the qualities of one are so inferior as to permit of the substitution of one by the other. Oils take longer to sell than other citrus products. Lime oils are, on the whole, more variable than lemon oils.

6. It is not possible on the basis of available information to compare the profits of lemon and lime cultivation. With good prices it is probable that it is greater in the case of limes.

7. As regards marketing, the existence of the Sicilian Camera means lack of that competition among buyers which is enjoyed by the lime growing industry. At the same time, the Camera ensures a minimum price for lemon growers.

8. The testing of samples is not so satisfactory as it might be. This is said to be largely the result of variation in the composition of juice in individual shipments.

9. A profitable trade in orange oils might be more generally established in the West Indies.

## THE CASSAVA INDUSTRY.

Almost the whole of Part 2 of the *Bulletin* of the Department of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago is taken up with the subject of Cassava. As explained by the Editor this is the outcome of the January meeting of the Board of Agriculture, which was held at San Fernando, and which inspected the Experimental Cassava Flour Factory at Palmiste Estate. Subsequently papers were read on the subject, which are given in the *Bulletin*, together with some articles which had already appeared dealing with the question.

Mr. A. Vyvyan Board has called attention to the commercial possibilities of cassava. Cassava starch, he pointed out, was a comparatively expensive product, which must be sold in England at from £11 to £15 per ton to show a profit. Cassava flour, on the other hand, such as was being made in Trinidad, could be sold at £7 per ton in the English market, and on account of its lower price could enter markets closed to the higher grade product. Cassava was a competitor of maize, and in fermentation industries, such as brewing and distilling, had a great advantage over maize, in that it was almost entire free from oil and albuminoids. Oil had to be extracted from maize before it could be used for this purpose, especially in the case of brewing. The average amount of carbo-hydrates in maize was 60 per cent. and in cassava flour 84 per cent. Speaking of the small factory which had been erected at Palmiste, Mr. Board said that the process employed was to put the roots when they entered the factory into a rotary cleaner. The woody parts were then cut off, and the trimmed roots passed through a disc cutter, where they were cut into small pieces. These were subjected to considerable pressure, which removed about 15 per cent. of the moisture, starch being recovered in the ordinary way from the moisture thus expressed. The pressed cassava was then dried and ground into flour. Mr. Board considered that with cassava at £1 per ton, a very profitable business could be worked up.

Mr. W. G. Freeman, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, dealt with the agricultural side of the question. Cassava was of advantage as a catch crop, and he quoted an instance in which 58 tons grown in this way had cost, delivered a mile away, \$4.11 per ton, the yield per acre being 5.63 tons. As a main crop he estimated that eight tons an acre could be grown, and it was reasonably expected, from what had been done elsewhere, that the cost would not exceed £5 to £6. He also pointed out that cassava was useful as a rotation crop for canes, these being grown for six years, then cassava and corn until the beginning of the eighth year, then a leguminous crop, with a return to canes in the ninth year.

The question of a cassava industry was again brought up and discussed at the February meeting of the Board of Agriculture, when Professor

Carmody referred to the Cassava Starch Factory at the Carenage, which was far in excess as regards power of the cassava obtainable. An account of this factory is given in the *Bulletin*, in which it is stated that with 25s. per ton paid for roots, a satisfactory price could be obtained for the starch in the United States.

### OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

#### Living Bridge in Barbados.

We have to thank Mr. H. W. Parkinson for the photographs of the game of Living Auction Bridge which are reproduced on another page. The game was organised by Mrs. E. H. Bannister and Mrs. Lambert Phillips, as the outcome of a suggestion made by Mr. W. L. C. Phillips, the Colonial Treasurer, and was played in the charming grounds of Government House, Barbados, in aid of the local War Relief Funds on April 21st. The players were Mr. D. G. Leacock and Mr. V. Hanschell, who were opposed to Mr. Clifford Manning and Mr. Clifford Wright, and the cards were represented by the following:—

#### HEARTS.

Acc—Mr. J. Greaves.  
King—Mr. V. Smith.  
Queen—Miss J'Albuquerque.  
Knave—Mr. W. Bradshaw.  
10—Miss C. Gardner.  
9—Miss E. Burton.  
8—Miss Percival.  
7—Miss P. Thorne.  
6—Miss D. Mayers.  
5—Miss M. Badley.  
4—Miss F. Inness.  
3—Miss D. Ince.  
2—Miss K. Boxill.

#### CLUBS.

Acc—Mr. C. Evans.  
King—Mr. M. White.  
Queen—Miss K. Catford.  
Knave—Mr. F. Hardy.  
10—Miss C. Hinkson.  
9—Miss B. Packer.  
8—Miss M. Collymore.  
7—Miss N. Bowen.  
6—Miss A. Johnson.  
5—Miss G. Bradshaw.  
4—Miss K. Bynoc.  
3—Miss M. Farrington.  
2—Miss D. Jackman.

#### DIAMONDS.

Acc—Mr. I. Connell.  
King—Mr. G. Murray.  
Queen—Miss D. Skeete.  
Knave—Mr. B. Skeete.  
10—Miss E. Cleare.  
9—Miss M. Evelyn.  
8—Miss M. Phillips.  
7—Miss B. Warden.  
6—Miss D. Evelyn.  
5—Miss M. Inness.  
4—Miss G. Thorne.  
3—Miss D. Bovell.  
2—Miss D. Howell.

#### SPADES.

Acc—Mr. H. Phillips.  
King—Mr. S. Skinner.  
Queen—Miss M. Evans.  
Knave—Miss E. Collymore.  
10—Miss M. Pitcher.  
9—Miss S. Archer.  
8—Miss M. Laborde.  
7—Miss D. Moore.  
6—Miss H. Bradshaw.  
5—Miss N. Johnson.  
4—Miss N. Burton.  
3—Miss J. Bovell.  
2—Miss S. Bannister.

THE "JOKER" Mr. G. Manning.

Proceedings were opened by a statement made by the "Joker" who explained the game, and the subsequent shuffle, cut and play was accompanied by suitable music provided by the Police Band. During the interval a pas seil was danced by Miss Joan Bovell, which was followed by a minuet performed by the Court cards and Sir Roger de Coverley by the small cards and aces.

In cases of Ankylostomiasis in Brazil the back and leaves of a species of wild almond tree are used with advantage.

### COTTON IN JAMAICA.

#### A Suitable Crop for Small Settlers.

The Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society contributes to the April number of the *Journal* of that organisation an interesting article on cotton from which the following extracts are taken.

The year 1914 was over a large part of Jamaica one of the very worst on record for small rainfall. If it was dry over some parishes which have ordinarily a very good to a very large rainfall—like St. Mary, Eastern St. Thomas and Portland—the condition of agriculture in what we have come to call the dry districts (when they are not termed the drought-stricken districts) may be imagined—we will not attempt to describe them. Sufficient to say that little rain fell from early in the year, and at the end of 1913, the rainfall had not been profuse as it should be, so that the land was not saturated with moisture to start the drought with, but was already dry.

It was under such conditions late in 1913, that this Society started some systematic experiments in growing Sea Island, and the Sakellarides variety of Egyptian, Cotton. Usually, to get the best crop of cotton one should plant from the middle of August to the middle of September, but there was not enough rain in Southern St. Elizabeth or Southern Manchester to start the growth of seed until October. The plots were grown in different ways, the original plan being to compare the resulting crops; but owing to the re-sowing that had to take place, throwing parts of the plots very late and to the fact that there were practically no results in two of the plots as rain enough never fell to help crumble the clods which no amount of pulverizing by hoe or fork could ever have made fine. The kind of weather to bring about such conditions may be pondered over. Planting was done by chop holes made by the hoe in hard ground, in forked holes, and in parts of the plots the soil was forked all through. Parts of some plots were mulched, part not mulched. Owing to drought it was difficult to find enough dry Guinea Grass even to mulch with and recourse had to be made to the foliage of mango and other drought resisting trees. Hence the very high cost of the mulch, but this was justified as it ensured some crop through the severe dry weather when otherwise there would have been none. We present statements of accounts of two plots. No. 1 was grown in red soil, a very hot place, but when there is rain, a fast growing and productive place. The soil was new and good. We have eliminated a few items of expenditure which are rightly charged to permanent expenditure—such as stumping and fencing. Even the cost of clearing the acre might not all be charged to one crop of one season of six months.

In the circumstances this cotton did very well. It would have shown better financial results if a catch crop had been grown through it like No. 2.

This No. 2 was grown by the Agricultural In-

structor himself but had no close personal supervision, as he has, in the course of his duties, to be away every week-day and over half his time at night.

What he can do careful small settlers in those very dry districts should also be able to do. Catch crops are a necessity for the small settler; they are an insurance that he will reap something and are a compromise between the local food crop and the export crop.

INSTRUCTOR'S COTTON PLOT.

NEW FOREST COTTON PLOT, 1913-14.

		£	s.	d.
1913	Aug. 7th	For clearing on account	10	0
	Aug. 13th	Forking & roots taken up on account	5	0
	Aug. 20th	Clearing (bal.)	8	0
	Sept. 5th	Forking (bal.)	15	0
	Sept. 11th	Planting	6	6
	Sept. 11th	Planting	6	6
	Oct. 9th	Weeding on account	2	0
	Oct. 22nd	Weeding (bal.)	2	0
	Oct. 22nd	Mulch	1	1
	Nov. 19th	Dusting with Paris Green	1	0
	Nov. 24th	Resowing	1	0
	Nov. 24th	Weeding	3	6
	Dec. 10th	Dusting and Resowing	2	6
1914	Jan. 9th	Weeding	5	6
		Picking	1	0
		Bags, cartage, wharfage, freight	18	6
		Actual cost of cotton	6	8
		Reaped 601 lbs.—175 nett at rs. per lb.	8	15
		Net Profit	2	6

One acre—1913-14.—II.

EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.
July 1913	Clearing land	16	0	
Aug. "	Drills, 9 ins. wide, 8 ins. deep, rows 4 ft.	1	1	0
Aug. "	Guinea Grass Mulch, and horse manure—1 handful to each hole	3	15	0
Sept. "	Planting	8	0	
Oct. "	Resowing about three-fifths of the whole acre	5	0	
Oct. "	Weeding	6	0	
Oct. "	Buying of Red Beans and Planting	12	0	
Nov. "	Weeding	6	0	
Dec. "	Reaping Red Beans—cost	9	6	
Mar. 1914	Corn Planted	2	0	
April				
May & June				
July "	Cotton picked	1	2	6
July "	Corn reaped—cost	7	3	
July "	Bags for cotton, cartage, freight and wharfage	1	1	0
		£10	11	3

INCOME.

		£	s.	d.
Dec. 1913	Red Beans reaped and sold—12 bus., 5 qts.	7	5	10½
July 1914	Corn reaped and sold—14 bus., 12 qts.	2	17	6
	Cotton reaped, shipped from Ginnery to Liverpool and sold—nett	11	5	0
		£21	8	4½

Not more than seven-eighths of the total area of cotton planted grew, and at the time of sending away seed cotton gathered, fully 100 lbs. remained unpicked. The same acre was renulched in August, 1914, at a cost of £2 12s. Cassava was planted in September and red beans and corn in October. The return from red beans and corn was 14 bushels and 6 quarts, and corn (still on cob) estimated at 10 bushels. If the return of the cassava be as two acres reaped at a year old last December and the rate be the same the amount would be £23.

	Cost.			Yield.			Gain.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Red Beans	1	1	6	7	5	10½	6	4	4½
Corn		9	3	2	17	6	2	8	3
Cotton	9	0	6	11	5	0	2	4	6
Total	10	11	3	21	8	4½	10	17	1½

The mulch which cost £3 15s. is charged to this one crop of cotton and not to the beans and corn, so are the weeding expenses of £1 8s. If the costs of these were charged pro rata there would be £1 11s. to add to the profit on the cotton.

When expenses are charged pro rata, the statement stands:—

	Cost.			Yield.			Gain.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Red Beans	2	3	6	7	5	10½	5	2	4½
Corn		18	3	2	17	6	1	19	3
Cotton	7	9	6	11	5	0	3	15	6
Total	10	11	3	21	8	4½	10	17	1½

Under ordinary market conditions this cotton which was of very good quality would have fetched about rs. 6d. per lb.

A CORRESPONDENT in Pernambuco informs us that sugar in Brazil has not greatly benefited by the higher prices of the last nine months. The war caught the country in a state of incipient bankruptcy and money has been very scarce. The prohibition of imports into the United Kingdom has also had a bad effect, and the prospective crop will probably be the smallest for the last 35 years, owing to an eight months drought. The last of the many Central Factories in Brazil of the early 'eighties has put up its shutters, and is to be sold by auction, though many native factories have been making good and sometimes handsome profits. Considerable progress has been made in the use of alcohol from molasses for lighting and for stationary motors and automobiles. Spirit about 67 over proof is mostly used for the latter, and the running has been found to be smoother than with petrol. Carburetors must of course be of a suitable type, those mostly used being warmed by the exhaust to assist vaporization.

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies, varnished and mounted on rollers, post free in U.K. 8s. 4d., or to the West Indies 9s. 1d.

## LOOKING BACK.

### XI.—The West India Committee and Slavery.

That the West India Planters and Merchants were the most zealous partisans of slavery in the old days is a fact beyond dispute. The minutes of the West India Committee show, however, that they made genuine efforts in the direction of the amelioration of the conditions of the slaves. Thus we find a meeting was held at the "Thatched House in St. James's Street" on July 23rd, 1823, Charles Ellis, Esq., in the Chair, for the purpose of calling the attention of the Committee to an appeal which had lately been made to the Public by "The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negroe Slaves in the British West India Islands" with the view of obtaining contributions in aid of the Funds of that Society. Mr. Ellis laid before the meeting an account of the constitution, objects and progress of the Society, and moved the following Resolutions:—

"That this Committee are of opinion that the extension of the means of religious instruction is the best and surest foundation for the improvement of the civil as well as moral condition of the Negroes in the West India Colonies.

"That the Society for the conversion and religious instruction and education of the Negroe Slaves in the British West India Islands are entitled to the gratitude of the Colonies for their exertions in engaging Clergymen of the Established Church to co-operate with the Clergy of the Colonies in promoting the object of their Institution.

"That this Committee desirous of evincing the sense which they entertain of the value and importance of those exertions, and of that object, gladly avail themselves of the opportunity now afforded of expressing their cordial approbation of them and of offering a contribution to the Funds of the Society.

"That the Treasurers of the West India Planters and Merchants be authorised to pay over to the Treasurer of the 'Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negroe Slaves in the British West India Islands' the sum of one thousand pounds from the Fund of the West India Planters and Merchants of the City of London.

"That the Secretary be directed to send a Copy of the 'Account' of the Constitution, Objects and Progress of that Society and the accompanying Advertisement lately published by them, to the several Members of the West India Body in London and to the West India Associations in the Outports, requesting their subscriptions.

"That the Chairman be requested to communicate the preceding Resolutions to the Bishop of London."

At a subsequent meeting at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand (on November 21st) Mr. Ellis reported that he had written to the Bishop of London, who was President of the Society for the Conversion of the Slaves, and had received the following reply:—

"London, August 7th, 1823.

"Dear Sir,

"Having laid before the Society for the Conversion and Instruction and Religious Education of the Negroe Slaves in the British West India Islands, the Resolutions of the Standing Committee of the West India Planters and Merchants of the City of London which I had the honour to receive through you, I am directed by the Board to convey to you the expression of their Thanks contained in the enclosed extract from their Minutes.

"At the same time I beg leave to express the great satisfaction I have felt in observing the spirit of enlightened humanity, which directed the proceedings of the Committee, as well as of its individual Members, and which is manifested no less in the language of the Resolutions than in the liberality with which they have contributed to the funds of the Society. I am indeed of opinion that nothing could be better calculated with the blessing of God to promote the success of our endeavours in this good cause, than this early and unequivocal testimony of approbation and confidence from a Body so intimately acquainted with the State of the Colonies, and so deeply interested in their prosperity.

"I request you to accept my best acknowledgements for your personal exertions in favour of the Society, and have the honour to be.

"Dear Sir, with high esteem, etc., etc., etc.,  
"B. LONDON."

"To Charles Ellis, Esq., M.P.

The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negroe Slaves in the British West India Islands had its origin in a bequest of the Hon. Robert Boyle (by will dated July 16, 1691) intended "for the advancement or Propagation of the Christian Religion amongst Infidels," and the income from which the Trustees, in consequence of the American Revolutionary war of the eighteenth century, had ceased to be applied to its original object, namely, the education and instruction of Indian children in the College of William and Mary in Virginia. The Society received its first Royal Charter through the exertions of Bishop Porteous of London, on October 30, 1794, and a renewed Charter through those of Bishop Blomfield, on January 11, 1836, under the present title, "The Incorporated Society for Advancing the Christian Faith in the British West Indian Islands and elsewhere, and in the Mauritius." The Society derives its income, now about £2,310 per annum, from investments, and therefore the excellent work it has been doing quietly for over a century is little heard of. The West Indian Bishops, to whom grants are annually made, repeatedly bear witness to the indispensable benefit their dioceses receive from the Society.

The Thatched House, now the Thatched House Club, was a favourite venue of the West Indian Body in the early years of the nineteenth century. This celebrated tavern stood at the foot of St. James' Street on the site of the present Conservative Club, from 1711 until 1843. It then moved to the adjoining premises which were opened in 1845 and taken over in 1865 by the Civil Service, now the Thatched House, Club. Among those who attended the meeting referred to above were Mr. Neill Malcolm, afterwards Chairman of the West India Committee, Sir William Windham Dalling, Bart., Mr. William Manning, M.P., Mr. George Carrington, Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., Mr. George Hibbert, Mr. Joseph Marryat, M.P., and Sir Simon H. Clarke, Bart.

A new form of application for membership of the West India Committee has now been issued. Members are invited to introduce eligible candidates for admission.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:

- Armstrong, E. Lindsay, (of Barbados and Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Bagot, Arthur Gordon, (son the late Mr. Walter Bagot, of Demerara, British Guiana), 6th Battalion City of London Rifles.
- Brauch C. D., (of Antigua), Anglo-French Red Cross in France.
- Brag, Major A. S., (served in Jamaica), Commander 16th Divisional Train, Army Service Corps.
- Carver, H. C. Connell, (of Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Castor, Lieut. Brian Kenneth, (son of Dr. C. F. Castor, of the Government Medical Service, British Guiana), 1st Rhodesian Regiment. With the Northern Army in German South West Africa.
- Codner, Oughten B., (son of Mr. James R. Codner, of Gibraltar, St. Ann's, Jamaica), Canadian Contingent.
- Curphy, Lieut. A. G., L.R.C.P., (District Medical Officer, Jamaica), The Royal Army Medical Corps.
- de Roux, Louis, (son of Mr. Storks de Roux, J.P., Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Gray, 2nd Lieut. Leslie Bagot, (son of Mr. Baggett Gray, of Jamaica), 12th (Service) Battalion, King's (Liverpool) Regiment. *At the front.*
- Gray, Lieut. Clifford Bagot, (son of Mr. Baggett Gray, of Jamaica), 12th (Service) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
- Gray, Gunner Wilton Bagot, (son of Mr. Baggett Gray, of Jamaica), Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.
- Hamilton, Private Harry, (son of the late Mr. Frederick Hamilton, for many years with Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., of Trinidad, and of Mrs. Hamilton-Collingwood, of 10, Pinborough Road, London, S.W., and nephew of Edward Howard Bannister, Esq., M.B., C.M., of Merton Lodge, Barbados). The London Scottish. *At the front.*
- Hargreaves, Lieut. George, M.D., L.R.C.P., (District Medical Officer, Jamaica), The Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Harty, Frank, (son of Canon Harty, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Harty, Mrs. Frank, (wife of Mr. Frank Harty), Red Cross Nurse.
- Henriques, Captain Julian Q., (son of the late Mr. D. Q. Henriques, senior partner of D. Q. Henriques and Co.), Queen's Westminster Rifles, 16th London Regiment. Has been invalided home and is now attached to the 2nd Battalion of the same regiment.
- Jafitte, Seaman E. Noel, (of Dry Harbour, St. Ann's, Jamaica), with the Fleet at the Dardanelles.
- Lawton, Eustace, (son of Mr. Michael Lawton, St. Mary, Jamaica), 1st Royal Montreal Regiment.
- Lee, Sub-Lieut. A. E. J., (son of the late Mr. Arthur M. Lee, and a partner in the firm of Messrs Lee, Spooner and Co.), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.
- Linton, A. Cyril, (of Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Lynons, Lieut. Edward Leslie, (of Jamaica, Bachelor of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, McGill University, Montreal, Canada), Canadian Contingent, Royal Engineers.
- Murray, Aubrey S., (of Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Myers, Gunner D. A., (son of Mr. E. I. Myers, of Strathville, Santa Cruz, Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.
- Owen, Captain Reginald, (at one time stationed in Jamaica, son-in-law of Mr. Bryan, late Secretary of State, U.S.A.), Royal Engineers. *At the front.*
- Phillips, Lieut., (of Grenada), The Royal Army Medical Corps.

- Phillips, Private, (of Grenada), The Honourable Artillery Company.
- Robt, Dr., A.D.C., (of St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica), Red Cross.
- Rose, Second Lieut. Reginald George, (nephew of Mr. H. S. Cox, M.A., J.L.B., Barrister-at-Law, British Guiana), 12th Essex Regiment.
- Russell, 2nd Lieut., (nephew of Mr. E. B. Levy, The Customs, Jamaica), 4th Gloucestershire Regiment.
- Scott, Captain H. H., (Government Bacteriologist, Jamaica), The Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Sherlock, Wylie M., (brother of Mr. A. M. Sherlock, of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Naval Air Service, Armoured Cars.
- Walcott, Lieut. F. S., (son of Mr. W. H. Walcott, of Barbados), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Wiggin, John S. W., (of Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.
- Wilson, Lieutenant Robert, (formerly of Wilsons, Glasgow and Trinidad, Ltd., and lately with Messrs. Lade and Co.), lately sergeant in the 2nd Sportsman's Battalion, has been gazetted to the 5th (Renfrewshire) Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
- Wood, E. R., (partner of Mr. Harold L. Q. Henriques in D. Q. Henriques and Co.), Inns of Court Officers Training Corps, Cavalry School.

### Alterations and Corrections.

- McCrindle, 2nd Lieut. J. R., (son of Dr. McCrindle, St. Andrews, Jamaica), 7th Gordon Highlanders, has been gazetted to the Royal Flying Corps.
- Paton, Major A. C., (Proprietor Belle Vue, St. Ann, Jamaica), Remount Department in France.

### Wounded.

- Haynes, Lieut. Charles Graham, (son of the late Mr. C. F. Haynes, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), has been seriously wounded.
- Cummings, 2nd Lieut. P. H., (of Riversdale, Tobago), 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. Was wounded on May 9th, and is now in hospital in London.

### Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT RONALD L. Q. HENRIQUES, who was killed in the battle of the Aisne, near Paisy, in France, on September 17th, and whose name was inadvertently omitted from the Roll of Honour in these columns, was son of the late Mr. David Quixano Henriques, senior partner of D. Q. Henriques and Co., West India Merchants.

CAPTAIN FERRIS NELSON GRANT, of the 5th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, who was first reported wounded and missing, has, we regret to say, been killed in action. Captain Grant was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferris Grant, of Crowhurst, and a nephew of Mr. George Grant. He was formerly in the Navy and was for three years midshipman in H.M.S. *Canada* on the West Indies Station. He retired from the Navy a few years ago, and then took up the Territorials with great zeal, joining the Royal Sussex Regiment. He succeeded to the command of the "B" (Battle and Uckfield) Company of his battalion when Captain Hornblower was wounded soon after the regiment arrived at the front. Captain Grant, who was a capable and much respected officer died heroically. To quote a sergeant of his company "Captain Grant led his men in fine style. 'England expects,' he said, 'you know the rest. Come on B.' He was on the top of our trench and away went the Boys."

MAJOR J. W. GRIFFITH, of the 32nd Lancers, Indian Army, who was killed on Empire Day, was the third son of the late Colonel Griffith, of Hodges, Jamaica, and Cheltenham.

### Died of Sickness.

TROOPER PERCY STEERS, (son of Mr. G. P. Steers, of Coleville, Jamaica), of the 7th Mounted Rifles, Canadian Contingent, died in Canada last month of meningitis.

## WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

## A Second Barbados Ambulance.

The S.S. *Chagres*, which arrived at Avonmouth on May 24th, brought a number of good things from Jamaica for our wounded soldiers. They had been collected and packed by Mr. John Barclay, the indefatigable Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and included three large cases of Jamaica cigarettes, and forty-seven cases of fruit. There was also a package of clothing for Belgian babies, of whom there are now many in our midst.

Thanks to the initiative of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, the people of Barbados, who have already sent one motor ambulance to the front, and have given to the Red Cross Society £200 for its upkeep, have now forwarded to the West India Committee the sum of £400 for the purchase of a second motor ambulance. The demand for suitable cars is now so great that some little time must elapse before Barbados Ambulance II. is in commission, but there is every indication that when it reaches the front it will be kept busy. Mr. J. Corbett Light, the driver of the Trinidad and Tobago Ambulance, which is now attached to the Duchess of Westminster's War Hospital, wrote on May 23rd:

We have been very busy as you will no doubt have gathered from the news, and the following is an accurate summary of the work done by this particular car for twelve days to date.

Distance run 513 miles.

Stretcher cases carried 83.

Sitting cases carried 100.

And in addition, mails, hospital despatches, provisions and kit; ambulances, as you know, are put to a multitude of uses out here in connection, of course, with medical services.

The gift of a second motor ambulance from the people of Barbados is to a great extent due to the kindness of Mrs. Dudley G. Leacock, who, with the assistance of a number of ladies and gentlemen in the island held an entertainment at her residence "Aberdare" on May Day, which resulted in the addition of £200 to the Barbados Motor Ambulance Fund.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

## The Leeward Islands.

Sir Hesketh Bell in transmitting Mr. Auchinleck's report on the Blue-book of the Leeward Islands for 1913-14 in January last explained that the delay was due to the adoption of the new classification of imports and exports required by the Board of Trade.



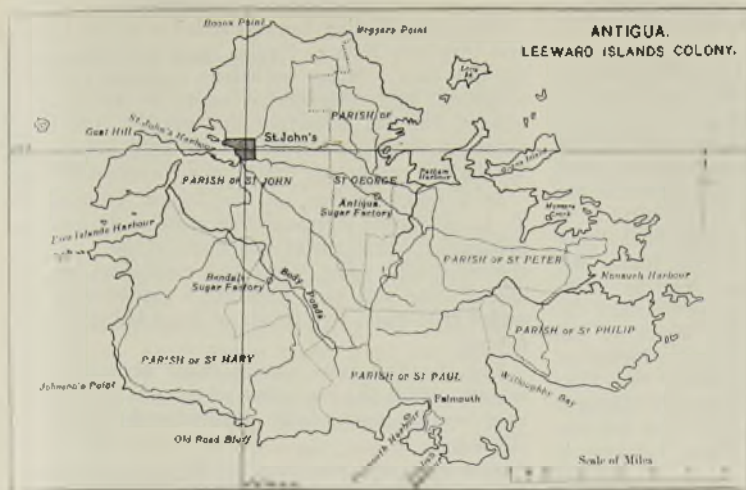
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## A New Map of Dominica.

The further delay—and the Report has only just been published—is no doubt attributable to the Government Departments being short handed.

The revenue of the Presidencies in each of the last five years was as follows:—

Presidency.	1909-10	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14
Antigua	48,583	52,326	52,292	53,490	52,218
St. Kitts-Nevis	47,343	52,748	58,002	57,078	53,880
Dominica	38,937	41,473	43,719	45,185	48,142
Montserrat	10,612	12,262	12,945	11,932	12,851
Virgin Islands	4,195	5,566	7,860	4,795	7,335
Total	149,670	164,375	174,818	174,480	174,450



cane to make a ton of sugar. At the St. Kitts Factory the total tons of sugar made amounted to 6,226.6, and 54,338 tons of cane were ground to produce it, an average of 8.73 tons of cane to a ton of sugar. During the year 2,094 tons of peasants' cane were purchased by the Antigua Sugar Factory.

Important extensions and additions were made to the Bendals Sugar Factory, Antigua. A new mill, a 10-ton vacuum pan and a central Torricellian condensing plant were added. The capacity of the factory was increased to a maximum output of about 4,000 tons, and opportunity was provided for the opening up in

cane cultivation of considerable areas of land in the south-western district of the island which have for

**Antigua.**

The expenditure in the same years was :—

Presidency	1909-10	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	49,204*	53,495	53,652	53,193	51,018
St. Kitts-Nevis	47,932	49,872	50,737	53,415	55,061
Dominica	41,276	39,059	38,399	40,123	47,482
Montserrat	7,807†	11,366	10,030	10,556	11,531
Virgin Islands	3,687	5,480	6,107	4,980	6,036
<b>Total</b>	<b>149,906</b>	<b>159,263</b>	<b>158,925</b>	<b>162,267</b>	<b>171,128</b>

The public debt of the colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £266,650.

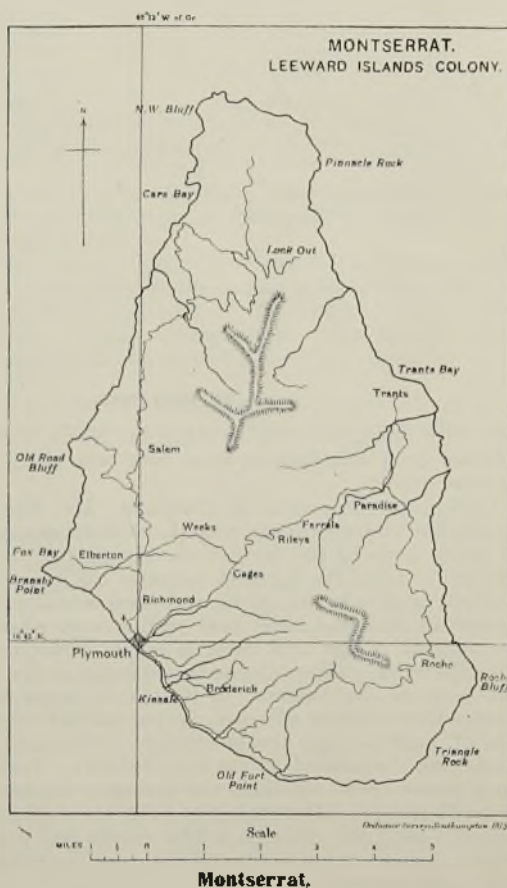
The following tables show the value of the imports and exports during the last five years, exclusive of internal trade :—

Year.	Imports.				
	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
	£	£	£	£	£
1909	139,496	171,939	124,685	27,524	7,382
1910	170,033	192,541	140,925	29,718	8,496
1911	181,331	302,865	161,101	34,166	9,226
1912	168,274	252,637	154,776	31,492	10,153
1913	159,397	197,539	167,190	31,787	7,949

Year.	Exports.				
	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
	£	£	£	£	£
1909	114,122	172,659	100,018	26,550	7,451
1910	106,184	195,506	109,529	30,003	6,610
1911	161,064	203,166	122,365	51,198	8,676
1912	164,968	187,961	147,962	36,594	7,218
1913	138,219	203,626	190,701	37,469	7,301

Sugar is still the main industry in St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua. The operations of the Bassetterre Factory resulted in a further increase in the output of crystals and for the first time "fancy molasses"—long an article of export from Barbados—was produced on a scale of importance. At the Antigua sugar factory 7,415 tons of sugar were made from 70,349 tons of cane, it thus requiring 9.49 tons of

\* Included £500 repayment of loans. † Included £300 repayment of loans.



many years remained only partially cultivated in other crops.

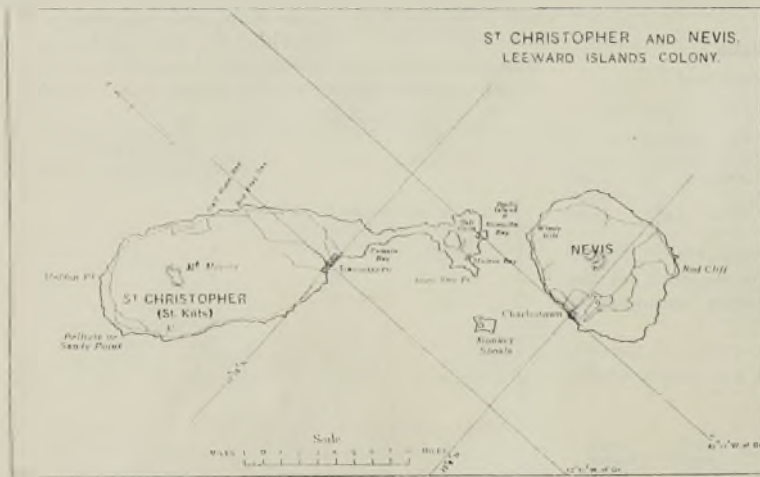
In all the islands except Dominica, where none is grown, and the Virgin Islands, where the crop fell off, Sea Island cotton made headway, 1,149,189 lbs. being exported, and the cotton industry had settled down on a firmly established basis, the West Indian islands having become recognised as a definite and important source of supply of Sea Island cotton.

The lime industry of Dominica which is the subject of a special report by Mr. Joseph Jones, the Curator of the Botanic Station, made further headway. Scale insects were kept under control by fungus parasites which fortunately, thrive in the island. The lime fields benefited from an increased application of manures. In Montserrat the lime trees continued to suffer from pests and diseases, and Mr. W. Robson, Curator of the local Botanic Station, admits that the state of the industry is

Coco-nut planting has proceeded in all the islands, and Pinney's Estate, Nevis, came into bearing for the first time. Minor industries continue to receive attention, and reference is made in the report to onions, vanilla, arrowroot and papain, and to the experiments instituted by Sir Hesketh Bell for kiln drying and marketing maize on a co-operative basis.

In a memorandum on the Virgin Islands, Mr. T. L. H. Jarvis mentions that during the year two proprietors began the manufacture of their own concentrated lime juice, while two capitalists had purchased land and were planting a considerable area under coco-nuts, two points of good augury for the future.

For the first time sketch maps accompany the report. With the exception of the one of Dominica they are the work of the Superintendent of Public Works.



St. Kitts-Nevis.

decidedly retrograde, but in Antigua, Nevis, Tortola and the Virgin Islands, limes have been planted to some extent.

With regard to cacao in Dominica, Mr. Jones states that under existing conditions there appears to be no hope of the further development of this industry. Only the hardest varieties can be successfully grown in the island, and then only if cultivated in sheltered areas near to the coast where the rainfall is low and there is ample protection from the wind. Except in one or two instances there has been no development of this cultivation on estates for a number of years, the capital and energies of planters being almost exclusively devoted to furthering the interests of the lime industry. For a long period cacao remained the favourite industry of small growers. During recent years the peasants have followed the example set by estates and now devote their attention to the cultivation of the hardy and profitable lime.

### The Straits Settlements.

Since the fall in rubber rigid economies have been effected in the Straits Settlements. The cost of production naturally diminishes as the trees mature, but many economies have in addition been found possible. In Malacca on the motion of the Malacca Planters' Association wages were reduced without friction, thus satisfactorily proving that the supply of labour is adequate. Many estates are using disc-harrows drawn by draught animals as cheaper than manual labour, and one estate is using steam ploughs.

The data now available go to show that in many districts in the East Africa Protectorate the conditions are extremely favourable for the development of the Citrus fruit industry.

FROM figures for which we are indebted to Mr. David Hatt it appears that in the first quarter of the present year 617,812 lbs. cacao were exported from Tobago. Copra to the value of £2,887 was shipped, and other items of export included 151 head of cattle (£906), 26 horses (£390), 427 pigs (£320), 218 sheep (£174), and 164 dogs (£68). Tobago tobacco to the weight of 9,393 lbs. (£587) was shipped, and the exports of vegetables to the neighbouring island were valued at £2,372. It will be gathered from these figures that Tobago, besides being an attractive island for the settler with means also offers unparalleled openings for the small farmer. A recent shipment of sturdy Tobago ponies points to the island being an ideal stock-breeding country.



## CONSULAR REPORT.

## A Ropeway in Colombia.

The construction of an important ropeway from Manizales to Mariquita in Colombia has been undertaken by a company called the Dorada Railway (Ropeway Extension), Limited. The capital is £250,000, but it is hoped to complete the work by the end of this year with an issue of £220,000.

The total length of the line will be 73.35 kiloms., and will be divided into 14 sections. There will be from six to eight motor stations on the line, and these will receive their power from a generating station situated near the junction of the Sucio and Gualí Rivers, water being taken from the former for the purpose. The station as at present designed is for 1,200 horse-power, but provision is made for an increase of a further 800 horse-power. The object is to feed the local railway, and to secure for it the products of the Cauca Valley in competition with the Pacific outlet via Buenaventura. At present the only means of transport by either route are beasts of burden for a great proportion of the distance; and although temporary advantage is secured to one or the other according to the condition of the roads, the cost is usually considered about the same. Freight can at present be transported to Mariquita from Manizales in six days by mules when the roads are dry, but in wet weather, when oxen are chiefly used, the state of the roads requires as many as 14 days. The average time taken, however, is from eight to nine days, and the average rate is about 6 dollars per load of two bags of from 60 to 70 kilos. each. The ropeway will reduce the time to 10 hours, and the price to 1 dollar 50 cents per bag of 70 kilos., or by rather more than half. Why should not the ropeway system be developed in parts of the West Indies?

## OBITUARY.

## THE HON. ALAN DREDGE.

"G. B." writes from Belize, British Honduras:—

I feel sure that the death of Mr. Alan Dredge, who perished with his wife in the *Lusitania* disaster, must have already been published in your CIRCULAR, as he was well known to your readers for his reports on British Honduras. As a member of the Legislative Council and Manager of the largest land-owning company in this colony, his influence was considerable, and although a stranger here in 1910, his short career of five years has had a beneficial effect on the social, business and sporting life of the whole colony. His success was due to no particular brilliance, but to sheer common sense and love of duty, and a hatred, carried almost to Puritanical excess for anyone who appeared not quite straightforward. He will long be remembered throughout the colony as a true Britisher and a gentleman.

## LIEUT. T. GORDON DAVSON.

A characteristic photograph of the late Lieut. T. Gordon Davson, Royal Horse Guards, who, as recorded in last CIRCULAR, was killed in action on May 13th, is published in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of June 5th.

## THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

The West Indian Transatlantic and Intercolonial mail service contracts expire in November 1917, and it is not too soon to consider what future mail arrangements shall be made. In view of the abnormal conditions which are now prevailing and are likely to continue beyond the time when a new contract would in ordinary circumstances be arranged, it has been suggested that an endeavour might be made to secure an extension of the existing contract from year to year. The views of the various West Indian Chambers of Commerce regarding this suggestion are being invited.

Meanwhile the following particulars regarding the subsidies which have been or are being paid to the colonial mail service may be of interest:—

Duration of Subsidy.	Annual Amount.	Transatlantic Speed in knots.
YRS.	£	
1842-1845	240,000	8 to 8½
1846-1850	240,000	9
1851-1853	240,000	9 & 10
1864-1874	173,000	10½
1875-1879	87,000	10½
1880-1885 (July)	80,000	11
1885-1890	90,000	12
1890-1895	85,000	13
1895-1900	80,000	13
1900-1902	80,000	13
1903-1905	80,000*	{ 13 to Barbados and 13 between Barba- dos and Jamaica.
1911-1917	88,000	{ Speed based on time taken between the various ports.

From 1905 to 1911 there was no transatlantic contract, and from 1907 to 1911 mails were carried on a poundage basis.

In 1907 a 10-years' contract for an Intercolonial service was signed, the annual subsidy being £25,000 payable as to £12,500 by the Imperial and £12,500 by the Colonial Governments. This amount is included in the figure £88,000 shown above for 1911-1917.

The colonial contributions under the old and present contracts are shown in the following table:—

	1903-5	1911-17
	£	£
Antigua	1,000	879
Barbados	4,000	4,000
British Guiana	4,200	7,700
Dominica	450	779
Grenada	1,000	1,260
Jamaica	2,100	—
Montserrat	200	163
Nevis	100	—
St. Kitts	450	879
St. Lucia	1,000	1,260
St. Vincent	450	580
Tortola	50	—
Trinidad	4,600*	18,000
	19,600	35,500

\* After the contract was signed Trinidad agreed to pay an extra £5,000 for a call by the main line steamers. This brought the total subsidy to £85,000 and the Colonial contribution to £24,600.

The contribution of the Imperial Government from 1903 to 1905 was £60,400 per annum. Now it is £52,500. Under the 1903-5 contract the colonies contributed £19,600. Now they pay £35,500.

Of the 1911-17 subsidies the following amounts are for the transatlantic service: Trinidad, £16,300; Barbados, £4,000; and British Guiana, £2,700.

### The Canadian Service.

From 1900 to 1912 Pickford and Black conducted a contract service between Canada and the West Indies. From 1900 to 1911 the subsidy was paid half by the Imperial Government and half by the Canadian Government. In 1911 the Imperial Government's share of the subsidy was discontinued, and a modified service was conducted by arrangement with the Government of the Dominion of Canada. Since 1913 the Canada-West Indies service has been conducted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The duration of the various contracts and subsidies are set out below:—

	Duration of Subsidy. Yrs.	Annual Subsidy. £	Speed in knots.
1900-1905	5	27,000	10
1905-1906	1	27,000	10
1906-1910	4	27,000	10
1910-1911	1	27,000	10
1911-1912	1	13,500	10
1913-1918	5	70,000	11

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

ON the upper surface of the leaves of plants there are small natural lenses. The generally accepted theory as to these is that they exist for the purpose of concentrating the light on the leaves of the cells beneath them. A few days ago, at the Royal Institution, Professor V. H. Blackman showed photographs which had been taken by these tiny lenses. One of these photographs was that of the Duke of Norfolk as Mayor of Sheffield.

THE March number of the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, gives the result of an experiment carried out in connection with banana meal. The bunches of bananas used weighed 915 lbs., the skins and stems of which scaled 378 lbs. There were thus 537 lbs. of peeled bananas, which gave 138 lbs. of meal. The bunches of bananas cost 9s. 6d.; the cost of making the meal was 4s. per 100 lbs., giving a total cost for the 138 lbs. of 15s. The total value of the meal made was 23s., showing a handsome profit. Equal parts of banana flour and wheat flour are said to make excellent bread.

EXPERIMENTS recently made by W. E. Brenchley go to show that very small quantities of some organic poisons stimulate the growth of certain species of

plants, but that this action is by no means universal. The conclusions arrived at were that zinc sulphate in high concentration was very toxic to barley and peas, and that there was no evidence of stimulation with any strength of the poison down to one to two hundred millionth per cent. Arsenious acid was found to be toxic to peas and barley, and no stimulation was noticed with the smallest quantities so far tested. Boric acid was found to be less poisonous than zinc sulphate or arsenic compounds, especially with peas, which were definitely stimulated with relatively high concentrations of boric acid.

\* \* \*

MESSRS. N. L. Söhlgen and J. G. Fol have lately been going into the question of the effects of microbes on the quality of rubber, and give the conclusions they arrived at in a recent number of the *India Rubber World*. On air-dried rubber containing 5 per cent. and less of water, they say, microorganisms cannot be developed in consequence of the lack of water. When, however, water is present in greater quantity, commercial rubber becomes the medium for the development of many kinds of bacteria and germs, to the detriment of the albumens sugars, and resins which are present. Some kinds, however, produce red, black, or brown spots without noticeably changing the mechanical properties of the rubber. Two kinds of *actinomyces*, however, often in garden soil and sewer water, are in a position to attack and assimilate the hydro-carbon in rubber.

\* \* \*

THE knowledge of these facts, viz., that, in the first place, the development of microbes can take place in moist rubber, when the rubber hydro-carbon is not decomposed, and the mechanical properties do not change, but where pigments are often given off, which diminish the market value of the rubber, and in the second that there are kinds of *actinomyces* which can positively attack the hydro-carbon of rubber and thus lower the viscosity, makes it desirable as far as possible to prevent the development of microbes in rubber. This can be done by the rubber being quickly dried on the plantations in suitably arranged drying chambers.

\* \* \*

THE same authority also states that a new method of hatching silkworms is reported to have been perfected in Aichiken, Japan. The method is very simple. Egg cards are immersed in dilute hydrochloric acid for five or ten hours just before they are hatched. In a fortnight or twelve days after the inversion the eggs are perfectly hatched, and worms that are stronger and more healthy than those hatched in any other way may be seen coming out of the shells. The silk produced by the worms thus hatched is better and longer than that produced in any other way. It has been stated that in this way the silk produced measures 1,200 feet whereas the worms hatched in the ordinary way only give a 700 foot thread.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. ALFRED BAUMGARTEN has severed his active connection with the St. Lawrence Sugar Refining Company of Montreal.

\* \* \*

MR. HUNTLEY DRUMMOND, of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refining Company, Limited, of Montreal, whose brother, Mr. Guy Drummond, has been killed at the front, has offered the Canadian Government £20,000 for the purchase of machine guns.

\* \* \*

MR. E. L. ATKINSON, Manager of the Trinidad Branch of the Colonial Bank, has retired on a pension, and has been succeeded by Mr. W. J. Messervy, the Accountant of the Branch. Mr. R. V. Butt succeeds Mr. Messervy as Accountant.

\* \* \*

MR. W. M. BOTSFORD, the courteous London manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, is acting as Hon. Treasurer of a War Exhibition to be held from June 25th to October at Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, with the object of assisting the Belgian Red Cross Fund. The purchase of a season ticket of £1 1s., which will be designed by a Belgian artist who was present at the siege of Louvain, makes the subscriber a patron.

\* \* \*

THE Canadian sugar producers are making the most of their opportunity, the present area under sugar beet in Ontario being the largest yet recorded. It will be recalled that in accordance with the terms of the Canada-West Indies trade agreement the privilege enjoyed by the Canadian beet refiners of importing a quantity of sugar equal to that refined by them from any source on the terms of the British Preferential Tariff expired on December 30th last.

\* \* \*

THE Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply received liberal recognition in the recent Birthday Honours List, Mr. R. P. Lyle—the well known sugar refiner—receiving a baronetcy, and Mr. W. Slaughter a knighthood. Curiously enough the fact that Mr. Slaughter is Chairman of the Home and Colonial Stores, the grocers who have shops in nearly every important town in the Kingdom, was not mentioned in the announcement, though his other activities were!

\* \* \*

MR. EDWARD GOULDING, M.P., whose election as a member of the West India Committee was announced in last CIRCULAR, received the honour of a baronetcy on the occasion of the King's birthday on June 3rd. Mr. Goulding was invited to accept office in the Coalition Ministry, but found it impossible to do so. He has been the recipient of a letter from Mr. Bonar Law, thanking him for

the devoted services which he has rendered for so many years to the Unionist Party.

\* \* \*

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON on April 17th ordered that the Culebra Cut in the Panama Canal should thenceforward be named "Gaillard Cut" in honour of Lieut.-Col. D. D. Gaillard of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army. Lieut.-Colonel Gaillard, as a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission was in charge of the work in the Cut until its virtual completion. He was compelled to give up his duties in July, 1913, owing to illness from which he succumbed in December of the same year.

\* \* \*

THE Mexican Boll Weevil first appeared in Southern Texas in 1892 and has since infested the cotton fields of a large part of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, all Louisiana and nearly all Mississippi. Nothing seems to stop its progress, and it is expected that it will reach Georgia this year. The total area infected in 1913 was estimated at 296,500 square miles. Some idea of the ravages of the pest may be gained from the fact that owing to its depredations the cotton crop of Louisiana fell from 1,089,526 bales in 1904 to 245,648 bales in 1910.

\* \* \*

THE Harrison Line steamer *Student* passed through the Panama Canal on May 23rd carrying, with other cargo, 1906 tons of grocery Demerara sugar from British Guiana to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver. Three weeks before the *John A. Hooper* took 19,500 bags of sugar from Vancouver to British Columbia by the same route. If it is profitable to ship Cuban sugar which enjoys no preference in the Dominion to Western Canada, it should be still more profitable to ship British West Indian sugar, which does enjoy a preference, in the same direction.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

HIS Excellency the Hon. T. A. V. Best, Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands, writes from Government House, Antigua, "I have much pleasure in saying that the copies of the Committee's Map of the West Indies which you have supplied to Government House, the Colonial Secretary's Office and to myself, are very useful and a credit to every-one concerned in their production.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

A list of publications to be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms will be forwarded post free upon request.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

DURING the fortnight two events of moment have occurred, the one the reassembling of Parliament under a Coalition Ministry, and the other the first Zeppelin raid on London. The importance of the former, meaning as it does the sinking of party politics in the interests of the country at a time like the present, cannot be overrated, and it is to be regretted that a few members, in whom the *ego* is large and the spirit of patriotism small, have made it the occasion to endeavour to embarrass the Government at the outset by an ill-timed ventilation of petty views or party fads.

\* \* \*

The other incident, the Zeppelin raid, is more interesting, than of special importance as affecting the result of the war. The publication of the locale of the bomb-dropping is forbidden, but the results are ludicrously small compared with the size of the trumpet flourishing associated with these Brobdignagian aircraft. There was no panic among the population, only a strong feeling of wrath at this particular description of German barbarism, coupled with secret vows as to the future when the British Day comes, if not before.

\* \* \*

In fact, *sangfroid* was the order of the day, or rather night. The barber who barbs your correspondent lives in the "bombed" area, and a few yards from his house a bomb set fire to a timber yard. In the usual tonsorial conversation he said that he "did not see any cause to get out of bed" when the bomb-dropping occurred. The population was indeed divided into two great classes, those who stayed quietly at home in their beds, and those who rushed out into the streets in a spirit of excitement. The exasperating part of the whole Zeppelin business is that innocent and unoffending non-combatants have lost their lives, and few achievements of the war have given more satisfaction than the destruction of a returning Zeppelin, with its crime-stained crew, by Flight-Lieutenant Warneford.

\* \* \*

THE recruiting band is very much in evidence in the London of to-day. A common scene in London streets is a band in khaki, followed by a small body of trained and untrained troops gathering a tail of recruits as it goes along. Like the children that followed the Pied Piper of Hamelin, so the youth of England are following the call of their country, some never to return, some to come back as lifelong cripples. But the call of the blood is surely in them, and sooner or later they must go, to fight, not for their Fatherland, but for their Motherland.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER, and a fresh feature in London streets is the appearance of a new military item, the members

of the Volunteer Training Corps. The sight of these, in neat grey green uniform, with the scarlet badge of "Government Recognition" on their left arms is now quite common. It is of the greatest interest to see how remarkably soon these Home Defence Volunteers, as a rule men of mature age, are shaping towards efficiency. Like the volunteers of 1860, they form the subject of many amusing sketches in the leading comic papers.

\* \* \*

THE news of the long delayed approval of the Government to the formation of a West Indian Contingent has excited much interest on this side, and most of the principal papers make reference to the subject. The common feeling is one of wonder that this step has not been taken before, and that these early British colonies should not have been allowed to directly contribute to the forces of the Empire at the front.

\* \* \*

DR. GRAY, the whilom head of Bradford College, who has been recently appointed lecturer at the Imperial Institute, delivered his lecture on the West Indies and British Guiana at that Institution on Wednesday last. The audience, which was limited to fifty and amounted to twenty-eight, was very enthusiastic in their interest in the matter of the lecture. No doubt the lecturer will follow up his lecture by a visit to the West Indies, which should, in the circumstances, be of especial interest to him.

\* \* \*

A GREAT deal has and is being said as to the increase in the cost of living as the result of the war. An increase in the cost of food has, it is true, taken place, but little is noticeable of it in restaurant charges. A slightly higher charge here and there, with perhaps a slightly lessened "helping" is all that is noticeable, and this helps to bring forcibly home the fact that what Londoners have been paying for in their outdoor life has been more the shadow than the substance; the gilding and the environment rather than the food itself.

\* \* \*

THE sale is proceeding of one of the most valuable private collections of plate and pictures, statuary and books to be found in England. Known as the Sydney Collection, these treasures were once the property of the statesman, Earl Sydney, whose name was given to the capital of New South Wales. Among the books and pamphlets are many of profound interest to West Indians. For instance there is a whole series of papers relating to the abolition of slavery. One document is entitled: "Some further remarks in vindication of the West Indian merchants against a late Charge of Theft at Piracy, 1729." Another paper discusses the "Causes of the rapid depreciation of West Indian property, 1807." The catalogue also includes a volume of "West Indian sketches drawn from authentic sources, 1816."

**AGRICULTURAL NOTES.**

It is satisfactory to learn from the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago for 1913-14 that, in spite of three successive years of drought, there is a marked improvement in the appearance of the Government House Gardens since Mr. W. G. Freeman took charge of them in 1911. Further improvements are to be made as rapidly as the funds at the disposal of the Department will allow. Eight acres of land in the Emperor Valley have been cleared and planted with Hevea rubber, coffee, limes, sapucaia nuts and tonca beans which will no doubt prove of great interest to visitors.

\* \* \*

The financial position of the St. Augustine and River estates is stated to be very satisfactory. It is probable that the balance due on the money advanced for the purchase and working of these estates will be repaid within a year or two. The former estate which is at St. Joseph was purchased in 1900. River Estate was acquired in 1897 with a view of protecting the sources of water supply. It was at first a failure, but since 1904 when it passed under the control of the Botanical Department, which is now merged in the Department of Agriculture, satisfactory progress has been made.

\* \* \*

MR. J. R. BOVELL, Superintendent of Agriculture in Barbados, shares with Professor J. B. Harrison, the honour of having "discovered" seedling canes. It is not surprising in the circumstances that the report of the Barbados Department of Agriculture should deal at great length with varieties of sugar canes, though two parts are devoted to manurial experiments. The report is a masterly document containing masses of figures which should prove of immense interest to sugar agriculturists.

\* \* \*

The system of cane selection adopted is as follows:—

The majority of seedlings are raised from seed planted early in the year in boxes and afterwards potted. The better specimens (generally some thousands in number) are planted in May in a field arranged for irrigation, so that during their more tender period they can be protected from drought, if necessary. They are kept under careful observation during their growth and when they come to maturity in the March or May of the following year, those varieties whose agricultural qualities are good enough are reaped and analysed. The whole stool is cut, weighed and crushed, and if the chemical analysis shows that the juice is rich and pure, the stools are dug up, cut in half and planted where they can be irrigated to induce a spring of fatum canes to provide plants for multiplying the variety the following December. From that time the variety is annually propagated and multiplied in the usual manner, and if the results warrant, it is grown in an increasing number of plots in different districts both as plants and ratoons. Each year these plots are reaped and weighed, samples of the canes are crushed in a small estate mill at the Laboratory, and the juice is analysed, and this goes on until the cane is either ultimately rejected, or plants are supplied to the planters with the recommendation to try them on a small estate scale.

**THE HOMEWARD MAILS.**

The R.M.S.P. *Tagus* was three days late in leaving Barbados, and as she had not reached Tilbury when the CIRCULAR went to press it is not possible to publish the usual extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

The outward mail closes at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16th, at the General Post Office. It has been arranged that a messenger will leave the West India Committee Rooms at 5.30 p.m. taking with him the letters of those members of the West India Committee who may desire to avail themselves of his services. Those members who find it impossible to catch the outward mail are recommended to post their letters as soon as possible and to mark them "per first opportunity."

**BRITISH HONDURAS.—The late Hon. Alan Dredge**

At a special meeting of the Legislative Council of British Honduras on May 19th, the Hon. R. Walter, Colonial Secretary moved a resolution recording the sincere and profound regret of the Council at the death of its late member, Mr. Joseph Alan Dredge, who perished with his wife when the *Lusitania* was murderously torpedoed by a German submarine on May 7th. He regretted the loss of the services rendered by Mr. Dredge and the loss sustained by the Council and the colony in general through his death. Mr. Walter referred to the prominent place in the public life of the colony which Mr. Dredge had occupied. He had worked hard, and not in vain, to improve the lot of the labourers in his employ. The resolution was seconded by the Hon. S. Cathbert, Senior Unofficial member, and was carried unanimously, all the members standing.

**DOMINICA.—A record of growing prosperity.**

A detailed table of the trade of the island for 1913-1914, for which we are indebted to Mr. E. A. Agar, shows that in 1914 the exports and imports were valued at £237,187 and £205,773 respectively, as compared with £190,701 and £175,590 in 1913. The value of cacao and lime products exported in the two years were as follows:

Article.	1913		1914	
	Quantity.	Value. Total £ value £	Quantity.	Value. Total £ value £
Cacao... ..	9,560 cwt.	— 24,750	8,902 cwt.	— 20,183
Limes, green* ...	43,833 brls.	19,293	43,283 brls.	43,217
.. pickled* ...	616 brls.	231	572 brls.	572
Lime Juice, concentrated* ...	158,979 gals.	60,842	148,129 gals.	68,754
.. raw* ...	336,728	15,083	379,875	25,751
.. cordial* ...	4,054	349	4,966	564
Citrate of Lime* ...	4,753 cwt.	17,026	5,191 cwt.	38,013
*Reduced to brls. of fruit	(390,208)		(388,391)	
Lime Oils ... ..		9,833		10,138
Total value of lime products		142,662		187,031

The exports to British countries were 55 per cent. in 1914 as against 63 per cent. in 1913 and the imports from British sources for the same years were 69 per cent. and 65 per cent. respectively.

**DEATH.**

Grant.—On the 9th ult., at the Rue de Bois, killed when leading his company in attack, Captain Ferris Nelson Grant, 5th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, T.F., late Captain Royal Navy (retired). Eldest son of Ferris Grant, of Crowhurst, Sussex, formerly of Demerara.

**OUR LIBRARY.**

The Editor is glad to receive copies of publications relating to the colonies, photographs of West Indian scenery, or of local events of topical interest, and donations towards the Library Fund, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

Another **Grey Ghost Book**, with a chapter on prophetic dreams and a note on vampires. By Jessie Adelaide Middleton. London: Byleigh Nash. 5s. net. In this volume the authoress of the Grey Ghost Book, which still enjoys well deserved popularity, tells many creepy stories. Among them is that of "the haunted vault" which furnishes us with yet another account of the now familiar mystery regarding the tomb at Christ Church, Barbados, the leaden coffins in which were on several occasions found in a state of wild confusion though the entrance had been hermetically sealed. The authoress, who appears to evidently be a firm believer in the unseen, arrives at the conclusion that the natives "were quite correct in thinking that supernatural forces were at work. . . no human agency could have possibly contrived the disturbance." She also attributes the disarrangement of the coffins to the fact that Colonel Chase took his own life. "Nothing extraordinary took place until Colonel Chase's body was about to be buried, and he had died by his own hand." This statement is based on Mr. Reece's account in "Once a Week." But according to the manuscript from the pen of the Hon. Nathan Lucas, who was present when Lord Combermere visited the churchyard in 1820, which was discovered by the late Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, and is quoted in "West Indian Tales of Old," the first disturbance had occurred when the vault was opened to receive the remains of Dorcas Chase, who died just over a month before her father, the Hon. Thomas Chase. The book contains many other capital ghost stories, besides that of the coffin mystery.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

**British Guiana** (Messrs. H. K. Davson and Co.), June 9th, "Weather continues favourable." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ending May 19th: Port Antonio, 13th "Fine"; 14th to 19th "Heavy rains." Kingston, 13th to 14th "Fine"; 15th to 19th "Rain." Week ending May 26th: Port Antonio, "Fine"; Kingston, Trinidad (The Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd.), June 4th, "Weather continues showery."

During the year to date 46 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	6	Bahamas	1
Barbados	6	British Honduras	1
British Guiana	5	Grenada	2
Tobago	5	Nevis	1
Jamaica	2	London	9
St. Kittis	2	Country	4
Antigua	1		

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Latest Quotations.		PRICED June 14
4 %	Antigua Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2 %	Barbados Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada Redeemable 1917-42	100
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1934	100
3 1/2 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1922-44	74
6 %	The Colonial Bank	3 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	74 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	91 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	99
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	99 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	141
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	103 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	77-87
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1 1/2 shares)	6 1/2
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	1 1/2
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	30
	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	103
	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	75
	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	99
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	237
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	8 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd "	8 1/2
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	99 1/2

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Oriole* (Commander A. T. D. Pearson), Liverpool, May 31st:—

Mr. H. G. Yearwood	Mr. R. A. Fawcett	Dr. J. P. T. Musson
Mr. J. F. Alexander	Mr. & Mrs. P. T. Gask	Mr. W. M. Paterson
Mrs. A. C. Allen	Mrs. Gray	Mr. G. T. Portbury
Mr. W. Barnfield	Miss B. Gray	Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Peifer
Miss C. D. Bell	Mr. W. H. Greene	Misses Porter (4)
Mr. T. R. Bellamy	Mr. J. Harris	Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Quakey
Mr. G. P. Boon	Miss A. M. Holy	Miss S. A. Scholberg
Mr. R. Brown	Miss Kenball	Mr. Sidnell
Mr. J. Brown	Mrs. M. E. Lang	Mr. H. W. Smith
Mr. B. Carr	Miss D. Lang	Mr. A. J. Thomson
Mr. F. Cailley	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lyon	Mr. D. Wallace
Mr. H. A. Date	Mr. P. A. Farrer-Manby	Miss Woodthorpe
Rev. M. E. Dooley	Mr. & Mrs. K. Murdoch	
Mr. M. J. S. Dyson	Mr. S. Murdoch	

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*, June 17:—

Mr. T. E. Ward	Rev. W. Houghton	Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Richardson
Mr. R. E. Savell	Mr. A. W. Ibbert	Mrs. P. M. R. Fuller
Mr. R. J. Roberts	Mr. Adams	Mr. I. A. Beiford
Mr. P. Fontenay	Mr. A. Picuard	
	Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Snelham	

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, June 30th:—

Dr. R. P. Weldon	Mr. F. A. Goddard	Mrs. S. C. Thorne
Mr. L. K. Watts	Mrs. & Miss Carr	Mrs. M. E. Reed
	Mrs. Showers	

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Mexico*, July 15th:—

Mr. N. H. Brewster, I.R.C.P.	Mrs. C. M. Dalziel
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**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. R. ...  
 H. E. Sir H. Hesketh  
 B. H. C. M. G.  
 Mr. A. Campbell  
 Mr. J. W. Cathcart  
 Mr. Cecil H. Chambers  
 Mr. F. J. Evans  
 Mr. W. M. Fletcher  
 Mr. G. Graf  
 Mr. John T. Gray  
 Mr. E. A. H. Haggart  
 Mr. A. T. Hanmond  
 Mr. D. L. Johnson  
 His Honour Leslie  
 Jarvis  
 Mr. A. S. Kernahan  
 Mr. A. E. Perkins  
 Mr. W. C. Robertson  
 Mr. W. F. Samuels  
 Mr. C. W. Scott  
 Mr. W. Smith  
 Hon. F. H. Watkins,  
 I.S.O.  
 and  
 Mr. H. Graham Year-  
 wood

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Lieut. Col. J. H. Collins, D.V., "Rossinoyue," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne,  
 Southampton.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Hon. J. Evelyn Footo, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 Mr. H. C. Morcom, Great Meols, Cheshire.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from August 5th, 1914. Consols are quoted at 66½. War Loan at 93½.

**SUGAR**—The Cuban crop is closing down rapidly, but not nearly so rapidly as last year. To the end of May the production was 2,173,000 tons, or only 70,000 tons short of last year's crop to the corresponding period of last year. To make the original estimate 427,000 tons are required; while at the same period last year 350,000 tons remained to be cropped. Last week 52 factories were grinding as against 28 for the same period last year, and a full crop is evidently in view.

The Board of Trade returns show that on the 31st of May the stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom amounted to 302,600 tons as against 343,000 tons on the 30th of April. The imports were 101,699 tons, and the exports 840 tons, showing a consumption for the month of 141,259 tons. This is below the usual consumption at this time of year, but no doubt the invisible stocks were higher than usual owing to Budget anticipations. At any rate, the consumption for the United Kingdom for the first five months of the present year is still above that for the corresponding period of last year. With 302,600 tons of sugar in hand on the 31st of May, with 120,000 tons of the Cuban purchases yet to arrive, with 300,000 tons of Javas, and 50,000 tons of American supplies in view, quite apart from the other miscellaneous purchases which the Government have been credited with, such as Dutch cubes, Argentine and West Indian sugars, even with the heavy consuming months now on.

There is not much to chronicle in the sugar producing world. The Java crop is likely to be delayed from bad weather. This means that this country may have to wait for its Java white crystals, which it cannot afford to do in present conditions, and will probably have to make purchases of American granulated in addition to the 50,000 tons recently bought. In this connection it may be mentioned that the West India Committee have suggested to the Sugar Commission that granulated sugar might be bought in Canada and not in the United States. The relatively greater export price charged in the Dominion has, however, prevented anything being done in this direction so far.

The coming Argentine crop is estimated at 300,000 tons. This does not, however, represent anything like the amount of sugar which will be available from that source, as a large supply of last crop's sugar is still on hand. The latest advices from Holland give the reduction in sowings as 16 per cent. less than last year, the price offered to the farmers for beets not being sufficient to secure the planting of the full acreage. It is reported that the Swedish Government has sanctioned the export of 25,000 tons of sugar.

In London the crystallised grocery market has been steady with a fair demand. On the 4th instant 2,235 bags of Trinidad crystallised were put up to auction, of which 1,595 bags sold at 24s. 9d. Out of 1,284 bags Demerara crystallised 864 bags were sold at prices ranging from 26s. 6d. to 28s.; three lots of special quality realising 28s. 3d.; while 162 bags of Demerara syrups were sold at 19s. 3d. to 19s. 7½d. On the 8th, 1,422 bags crystallised were put up for sale, of which 913 bags were parted with at 26s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; 518 bags Trinidad were bought in, 350 bags Demerara syrups sold readily at 17s. 3d. to 19s. 3d. On the 11th, 500 tons of West Indian were put up but only a few lots were disposed of at previous rates. At to-day's sales 6,950 bags were put up for auction, but in the absence of bidding was practically all bought in.

Tate's cubes remain at 31s., and Java white crystals at 26s. 9d.

The statistics of West India sugar since January 1st to June 5th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	17,462	18,478	22,705	15,610	21,822
Deliveries	16,055	12,346	12,087	12,617	15,032
Stock	7,416	18,737	12,457	7,428	11,153

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
	Jan. 1 to May 6, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to May 15, 1915	1914	
Sugar	28,451	24,837 Tons	1,709	6,322 Tons.	
Molasses	...	643 Puns.	...	...	
Rum	1,603,788	1,261,100	368,900	664,596 Galls.	
Molasses, Ac.	695	924 Tons	...	...	
Cacao	25,992	23,357 lbs.	2,612,192	3,795,344 Lbs.	
Coffee	40,052	159,040	4,490,752	5,072,144	
Coco-nuts	751,026	759,036 No.	10,398,778	11,266,210 No.	
Oranges	...	...	1,171,000	1,929,000	
Bananas	...	...	2,779,156	5,595,954 Steins.	
Cotton	...	...	21,927	10,592 Lbs.	
Pineapples	...	...	31,290	45,278 Cwts.	
Ginger	...	...	4,143	12,308	
Honey	...	...	45,619	97,554 Galls.	
Dyewoods	...	...	14,064	25,960 Tons.	
Gold	21,509	30,779 ozs.	...	...	
Diamonds	...	3,405 Carats.	...	...	
Rubbers	4,030,488	7,398,647 lbs.	...	...	
Palms	540,617	306,710	...	...	
Rubber	825	...	...	...	
Timber	53,356	89,009 cubic ft.	Arrwt. 1,431,427	1,446,323 lbs	
Lumber	10,742	132,687 ft.	Cacao	62,880	27,835
Lime (hydrate of)	3,458	...	Cotton	82,177	172,358
...	...	...	Seed	112,621	424,036

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to May 17, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to May 14, 1915	1914
Sugar	18,112	25,251 Tons	13,496	16,885 Tons.
Molasses	1,288	1,898 Puns	9,987	42,549 Puns.
Rum	1,762	560	...	...
Coco-nuts	3,207,025	5,793,623 No.	...	...
Asphalt	20,913	56,483 Tons	...	...
Manjak	103	83	...	...
Bitters	6,118	6,941 Cases.	...	...
Coffee	10,240	4,480 lbs.	...	...
Crude Petrol	102,354	5,939,107 Galls.	...	...
Cacao	32,166,800	47,198,000 lbs	9,273,960	11,066,580 lbs.
Cotton	...	...	35	1,058 Bales
Rice	...	...	290	3,253 Bags.
Seed	...	...	96	...
Copra	9,317	2,753 Bags.	746,055	739,015 lbs.
Spice	...	...	3,160	3,020
Kela	...	...	...	...

	Dominica.	
	1914.	1913.
Cacao	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	379,875	336,728 galls.
concentrated	148,179	158,974
Citrate of	5,191	4,753 cwt.
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984	5,370 galls.
equelled	1,619	1,505
Handwood	82,134	77,903 feet.
Bananas	3,790	4,266 steins
Coconuts	554,549	448,747 No

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

The New York market, which at the date of last summary stood at \$4.89 for duty paid 96° sugars rose on the following day to \$4.95, refiners' granulated rising in sympathy to \$5.00. The market remained steady at this figure until the 8th, when the price of 96° sugars for July shipment were quoted at \$5.02.

The New York feeling is in the direction of higher values in the near future, as it is felt that a considerable quantity of the remaining Cuban crop is earmarked for Europe, while demands are likely from the same source for granulated from New York.

**RUM**—The cloud of the Immature Spirit Bill has evidently passed away and the rum market has shown considerable activity during the fortnight. In Liverpool the Government seized the psychological moment and sold 400 puncheons of War Office Demerara rum at an advance of 2d. a proof gallon. It is to be hoped that the business acumen shown in the transaction is an index of a new business spirit in official circles.

There has been a considerable demand in the London market and sales have been made of proof kinds at 2s. 4d. spot, 2s. 3d. June-July delivery, and 2s. 2d. for delivery at later dates. Jamaicas have been in demand, although not to the same extent as Demeraras. Sales of good sound qualities have been made at 3s. 6d. the liquid gallon. Old at 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d.

The imports of rum for the five months of the present year amounted to 3,597,749 proof gallons, of which 2,468,337 gallons were for home consumption, as against 2,886,799 gallons and 1,506,573 gallons respectively for the corresponding period of last year.

Stocks in London on June 5th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica	4,422	7,285	5,855	7,434	9,624	Puns
Demerara	7,972	10,818	7,750	7,006	6,228	"
Total, all kinds	19,653	25,100	21,133	21,863	25,360	"

**CACAO**—The Board of Trade returns show that in May 19,273,461 lbs. of cacao were imported into the United Kingdom, as against 6,024,661 lbs. in May last year. Of the former quantity, 5,027,594 lbs. were for home consumption, leaving 14,245,867 lbs. for export as against 4,795,574 lbs., and 323,020 lbs. respectively last May, a good illustration of the enormous export trade in this commodity resulting from the war. The depressed state of the market which existed at the date of last summary was still in evidence at auction sales on the 8th. 5,312 bags, of which 4,123 were colonial and 1,196 bags foreign, were offered for sale, but only a few lots sold, the bidding showing a decline of 6s. for Trinidad and 3s. for Grenada. 430 bags of Trinidad were subsequently sold for 77s. to 79s. Of 104 bags St. Lucia, part sold at 74s. to 75s.; 311 bags of Grenada were part sold at 77s. to 79s. 77 bags Jamaica, 16 bags Dominica and 13 bags St. Vincent were put up but all bought in. To-day, a further lot of 550 bags of cacao, being a portion of that presented to the Army and Navy by the Colony of Trinidad was put up for sale by a firm of rubbers brokers with a view of providing funds to pay for the manufacture of the balance into chocolate for the soldiers and sailors. In this connection it is interesting to note that cacao has been bought by the Government for the use of the Navy as recently as a week ago. This anomaly is probably due to the fact that the purchases were on a contractor's account. Altogether 4,695 bags of foreign and colonial cacao were offered at the sales. Although the market is steady, little business was done, there being a slow demand. Part of 1,432 bags of Trinidad were sold at 72s. 6d. to 77s. Of 481 bags Grenada part sold at 70s. to 77s. Most of 502 bags St. Lucia were sold at 74s. to 78s., as well as of 32 bags Dominica at 76s. 6d. 79 bags of Jamaicas were bought in, as well as 13 bags St. Vincent.

Stocks in London on June 5th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Grenada	9,781	8,880	8,395	7,852	6,439	Bags.
Trinidad	3,251	11,191	7,734	5,851	15,225	"
Total, all kinds	69,698	93,329	81,930	114,122	92,561	"

**COTTON**—The continued abnormally large exportations of raw cotton from the United Kingdom to ostensibly neutral countries has again attracted the attention of the authorities, and, as announced in the House of Commons, some Council Order on the subject may be expected in the near future. In May to Sweden 1,865,100 lbs. were exported as against 149,200 in May, 1914; to Holland, 2,543,700 lbs. as against 305,600 lbs. and to "other countries," that is to say, countries other than those of the Allies, the enemy, the above, and the United States, 3,292,800 lbs. as against 812,300 lbs. These figures point to supplies of this valuable explosive element getting to the enemy countries through neutral States.

Since our last report 160 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton has been sold, including St. Vincent at 16½d., and St. Kitts at 16d. The sales have also included Stains at 6½d. For the year up to the 10th June 2,128 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been imported.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil.—No distilled is in the market; 4s. 6d. could be obtained. A small business has been done in handpressed at 6s. 6d. per lb. Lime Juice.—Raw is being offered in fair quantity, and sales have been made at rather higher prices. Good to fine Jamaica may be quoted at 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d., with Dominica at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per gallon. There is no change to report in Concentrated. The value of Citrate of Lime is unchanged at £24 to £25 per pipe c.i.f. New York.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs—Prices unchanged; 100's/80's may be quoted at 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's, 4½d. to 4½d.; 140's/120's 4½d. to 4½d. Mace—Unchanged. The value of good to fine is 2s. to 2s. 11d.; of red to good 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d.; of broken 9d. to 1s. 3d. Ginger—Good common may be quoted at 55s.; fair, small and medium, 60s.; good to fine, 65s. to 70s. Pimento, fair to good, 2d. to 2½d.; ordinary to middling, 1½d. to 2d.

**ARROWROOT**—About 120 barrels St. Vincent have been reported as having changed hands at 2½d. to 2½d. per lb. The present quotation may be taken as being 2½d. to 2½d.

**COPRA**—There has been nothing doing in West India copra. Fair merchantable may be quoted at £22 c.i.f. London for June-July shipment.

**COCO-NUT OIL**—No change. Ceylon is quoted at from £42 to £43 per ton.

**RUBBER**—The market for all kinds has been quiet, with prices for plantation rubber rather higher than at the date of last summary. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 2s. 5d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 1½d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 7d., with soft at 2s. 2d. The value of Castilloa sheet is 2s., and Castilloa scrap 1s. 7d.

**BALATA**—has ruled easier. Venezuela block is now valued at 1s. 10d. c.i.f., or 1s. 11d. London landed terms. West India sheet may be quoted at 2s. 2½d. c.i.f., or 2s. 3½d. landed London.

**HONEY**—No Jamaica honey was offered for auction last week, and quotations must be left at 30s. to 40s. per cwt. for dark to fine pale. Cuban sold well at auction, 34s. to 41s. having been obtained for good palish to fine white set. An error crept into last Summary under this heading. The quotation for Jamaica honey should have been 30s. for dark to 40s. for fine pale.

**COFFEE**—There has been a good demand and steady prices have ranged. At auction on the 11th, 168 bags Jamaica sold at 49s. to 50s. for ordinary quality.

**TIMBER**—British Guiana Greenheart may be quoted at from £11 to £13 per ton.

**WOODS**—Prices in the wood market remain unchanged, Honduras Cedar may be quoted at 4d. to 5d. per foot; West Indian Lignum Vitae £3 to £7 per ton. Sandalwood, 9d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.; Jamaica Logwood, £4 10s. to £5 5s. per ton; Fustic, £3 10s. to £5 per ton.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Unchanged. American, 8½d. Water White, 9½d.

June 15th, 1915.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL



# West India Committee Circular.

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June 28th, 1915.

### LAND SETTLEMENT IN ST. VINCENT.

ONE of the most interesting developments in the Windward Islands in recent years has been the adoption of a system of settling peasant proprietors on the land. A movement in this direction was inaugurated during the Governorship of the late SIR ALFRED MOLONEY as the outcome of recommendations made by the Royal Commission of 1897. The Imperial Government having voted £15,000 as a grant-in-aid of land settlement in St. Vincent, a Land Settlement Ordinance was passed by the Legislature of the island in 1899, providing for the offer of the land to peasant proprietors on easy terms. Operations were started in the same year, during the administration of the late SIR, then MR., HARRY THOMPSON, and were subsequently carried on with energy by him and his successors MR. EDWARD J. CAMERON and MR. GIDEON MURRAY. A report on the administration of the Roads and Land Settlement Fund prepared by MR. M. TATHAM, MR. MURRAY'S Private Secretary in 1911, showed that the scheme had been a success—as far as the settlement of the people on the lands was concerned—almost from its inception, or at any rate, as soon as the first suspicions of the peasants (who thought that they were to make cacao gardens for the Government to acquire) had been overcome. In a further report, just published by the Colonial

Office, and summarised elsewhere in the present issue, it is shown that the peasant proprietor system continues to flourish, and that it has had a most beneficial effect on the labouring classes, whose conditions of life have undergone marked improvement in every respect since it came into operation. In the circumstances it is not surprising that in 1909 about a hundred inhabitants of Union Island, a small dependency of St. Vincent, about 40 miles to the south, comparing the prosperity of their neighbours in the mother colony and in Carriacou, where a land settlement scheme was successfully started in 1902, should have petitioned the local Government to acquire the island and to settle them upon it. MR. MURRAY, the then administrator, readily agreed and Union Island was purchased out of the surplus assets of the Roads and Land Settlement Fund. The land was then divided up into allotments, and offered to the people with most gratifying results. Owing to the proximity of Union Island to Carriacou, the administration of the land settlement scheme in the former island was entrusted to MR. G. WHITFIELD SMITH, the Commissioner of Carriacou, who has since been transferred to the Turks and Caicos Islands. His memorandum on Union Island which accompanies Mr. J. LANDRETH SMITH'S report on St. Vincent makes most interesting reading. In St. Vincent fears have been expressed by some estates' proprietors lest the peasant proprietary system should rob them of their labour; but it is inconceivable that the authorities would incur that risk, and it would certainly seem that if the sites of the settlements are judiciously selected the estates should not suffer, but should in time actually benefit from having a growing resident population in the neighbourhood. In Union Island this question does not arise. The entire island is now held in trust, as it were, for the people, and the results of the land settlement scheme have been most remarkable. The inhabitants who were once formerly herded together in densely packed villages of squalid "wattle and daub," a style of architecture—if it can be dignified by that name—far too familiar in the West Indies, are now housed in neat and substantial wooden cottages, while the island, which once bore an unenviable reputation for lawlessness is regarded in a very different light. It may be truthfully said that from the point of view of the uplifting of the community these land settlement schemes have been eminently successful. Abundant evidence of this is furnished by the reports to which we have referred. When, however, we turn to the financial aspect of the schemes the position is not so clear. It would be helpful if in future reports tables could be in-

cluded showing the estates purchased, their acreage, their cost, the number of the allottees upon the land and the rents being paid. Much of this information is at present lacking. We should also like to see in future reports a more business-like financial statement. At present all that is available is a bare statement of revenue and expenditure. The Imperial Grant-in-Aid is included in the general revenue account, while what is obviously capital expenditure appears in the statement of expenditure cheek by jowl with recurrent expenditure. Meanwhile, it must suffice to say that for the fourteen and odd years during which the system has been in operation in the Colony of St. Vincent the revenue has amounted to £36,264 9s. 8d., or, after deducting the £15,000 Imperial Grant-in-Aid to £21,264 9s. 8d. The expenditure, on the other hand, stands at £34,982 11s. 3d. Much of this has been made, however, on what in a business would be considered "capital account," and after deducting the more obvious items which should appear under that head it would appear that the annual recurrent expenditure works out at about £600. But this does not include any provision for establishment charges, nor interest on capital or provision for a sinking fund. For neither of these is there any need, but we mention it to show that these land settlement schemes cannot be regarded as self-supporting. The modest annual expenditure now being incurred cannot, however, be regarded as excessive for a work which is conferring such benefit on so many of the residents in St. Vincent and its small dependency, and all concerned are to be congratulated upon the result of their labours.

#### SUGAR AFTER THE WAR.

**S**INCE it was first introduced into this country, sugar has been the sport of party politics. No industry has given rise to more acute political controversies. In the circumstances it is most unlikely that the question of the future of the British cane sugar industry will be raised in Parliament until peace is within sight. However much this may be a matter for regret, all interested must, we think, agree that it would be extremely injudicious and actually undesirable to break the political truce by attempting any public agitation in favour of securing preferential treatment for British sugar, while such a vastly more important matter as the provision of munitions to enable Great Britain to carry on this war to a successful conclusion remains to be settled. We, intimately concerned as we are in the welfare of our sugar-growing colonies, must, however, look to the future. Sugar factories cannot be erected in a few days, and though in the present state of the money market, it is improbable that capital will be forthcoming as yet for the development of fresh sugar-growing areas matters can be discussed and the way generally paved for the inauguration of new sugar-growing schemes as soon as the

psychological moment arrives when they can be launched successfully. The great object to be aimed at is to release the consumer in this country from his dependence upon German and Austrian sugar. If it were only the final or actual consumer—that is to say the man in the street—who was concerned, we should have no fear as to the future, for we cannot believe that the people of this country would go slavishly back to German and Austrian sugar after the war to the prejudice of our colonies. They were, indeed, in most cases quite unaware that the refiners and sugar users in this country were drawing their supplies of raw material from the countries with which we are now at war. Of the sugar-using trades we are not quite so certain. Their cry has been for cheap sugar, and if they cannot obtain it from British sources they will continue to get it from abroad. We must therefore show them that it can be obtained and how it can be obtained from British sources, and in this connection the replies to the despatch of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, asking the Governments of sugar-growing colonies what openings there are in them for the extension of the sugar industry, should prove particularly useful. Already these have shown that in British Guiana alone more than enough sugar could be produced to meet the annual consumption in the United Kingdom given favourable conditions as to immigration and market prices. This is not, however, a question of the West Indies only, it concerns the British tropics generally. Official reports have shown that given a preference in the home market the area under sugar could be very materially increased in Mauritius and Fiji, while the possibilities of hitherto untapped sources of sugar have also to be considered. In the present CIRCULAR we publish a despatch from the Governor-General of Nigeria forwarding reports from the Directors of Agriculture in which it is stated of the Northern Provinces that "in the event of preferential treatment being given, the possibilities of Nigeria as a source of sugar supply are well worthy of the most careful enquiry"; while of the Southern Provinces it is stated that there are "vast areas of land in the vicinity of the various rivers and creeks admirably adapted for sugar-growing and irrigation." Since the beginning of the war the public has been paying between 3d. and 4d. per lb. for its sugar without a murmur. Under a preferential tariff the quotation would stand far below that figure, and with the improvements and developments which might be expected with an influx of capital it is probable that the average price over a series of years would not be higher than it has been in the past. We should imagine that even if values were to be higher the public would not complain if they were satisfied that they were not pouring their money as they have been doing to the extent of over £12,000,000 a year into the pockets of foreigners, and were insuring against any violent fluctuations in the future. Meanwhile the position of the Brussels Convention has to be considered. On the one hand our friend M. GEORGE DUREAU, of our contemporary

the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, holds that this has gone by the board, while, on the other, M. SÉNUS, of the *Sucrerie Belge*, controverts the statement that the provisions of the Convention have been violated, or that the agreement has gone by the board. The point that concerns us is that by a voluntary act of abnegation on the part of our Government we are at present precluded from giving a preference to our colonies. We have, however, reserved to ourselves the right of altering our policy on giving six months' notice—for which mercy we must be thankful, and we can only hope that after the war a radical change will be made in our fiscal arrangements which will permit of British sugar taking the place of foreign in the markets of the United Kingdom.

### THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

[Passed by the Censor for publication.]

At last this country is beginning to realise that there will be no short cut to an honourable peace. The Minister of Munitions, Mr. Lloyd George, has admitted that we are not able at present to supply our armies in the field with enough shells, rifles and machine guns, much less the armies of the Allies. France, with one of her industrial provinces devastated by the enemy, has a larger output. As for Germany she produces more than all the powers of the Triple Entente put together. In other words the Government of "the workshop of the world" has lamentably failed to organise the civil life of the nation to cope with the emergency. Until that is done no favourable change in the military situation can be expected. Mr. Lloyd George says that he has placed large orders for shells, but until the new machinery of administration gets into swing, they will not be received at the front. Now that we have got started, however, the genius of the race for overcoming difficulties will no doubt pull us through as usual.

The stream of cotton flowing into Germany gathers volume, another of our failures to meet a serious situation. Not yet have we grasped the elementary fact that the nation cannot be at war, and the merchant be at peace. Otherwise the Home Office would not be issuing licenses to traders on the East Coast by the shoal. It is to be hoped that the National Government will give prompt attention to these matters.

#### On the Western Front.

There is little to record either in Flanders or in Northern France. The British and Belgians have both won trenches, and the French continue their offensive in the encirclement of Souchez. They now hold more than two-thirds of the "Labyrinth," in which they have captured enormous booty in war material and munitions. North of Arras they are advancing with Lens as the objective. In the Vosges and Lorraine the most notable success has

been made of late. Here the French are continuing to work up the twin valleys, which form an angle at Münster, the Germans themselves admitting that they have had to evacuate Metzeral, which they set on fire.

#### On the Eastern Front.

Von Mackensen is in Lemberg, which like Przemyśl, he has found an empty shell. Such a swift blow was not expected as the Russians were retiring with great steadiness and deliberation. But apparently, the Germans were reinforced from the West, which accounts for the comparative quiet on that front, and their supply of munitions seems endless. They were, therefore, able to pierce the Russian line at Rawaruska, which forced our Ally to retire from the position between the Dniester at Kolodrabny and the frontier of Poland. That it was a surprise is clear from the account of a brilliant cavalry charge against the advancing German infantry near Lubaczow, evidently made to avert a greater disaster. For the occasions in which cavalry are set to charge unbroken infantry are rare in war, because it has hitherto been supposed that they would be annihilated by rifle fire. The desperate expedition of the Grand Duke, however, succeeded in saving the situation, for the whole of the German line which had been advancing victoriously on the exhausted Russian infantry was thrown into a panic. On the Dniester the enemy attacks on the Mikolajow-Zydacow front failed with heavy loss, our Allies maintaining all their positions on this front.

#### What Next?

That the German aim in concentrating such large forces in Galicia is to impress the Balkan States with her power is not a primary consideration with her, as professional optimists seem to think, but a secondary one. Her real objective is Warsaw, which she hopes to take by a vigorous offensive on the west and south-east. With the line of the Vistula and the San in her possession she could then act on the defensive in the East, while concentrating her strength for smashing the Allies in the West. That was her original plan, which she is starting to carry out at exactly the same point as she did in the autumn, but with weaker resources. Not only are her embarrassments increasing, and her fronts lengthening, but the Russians can fall back and draw her beyond the sphere of the railway system which has enabled her to bring up the vast quantities of ammunition, to which she owes her recent successes. The Russians are not yet "done for." Even German journals acknowledge that much.

#### In the Dardanelles.

A substantial success has been achieved by the French in an attack upon the line of formidable works which run along the Kerevees Dere. Not only were the Turks driven out of their first and second line trenches, but out of the Harecot redoubt, with its maze of entanglements and communication

trenches. But so great are the natural obstacles to the Allied advance that progress is necessarily slow. Achi Baba, which rises to a very great height, bars the way, and, as it cannot be outflanked, every foot has to be won by costly frontal attacks. The position, which is a fortress made by nature herself, has been strengthened by German sappers, who have left nothing undone in fortifying it by scientific means. Even when Achi Baba falls, as fall it must sooner or later, there are still 50 miles to be traversed by the Allies before they reach Bulair, and half-way there are other heights to be stormed as formidable as Achi Baba, only more so. But the moral effect of capturing the first would be so considerable as to take much of the heart out of further Turkish resistance. The hold of the German task-master on his dupes must weaken with failure.

### On the Italian Front.

Our Ally is establishing her position on the highest points of the Carnic Alps, which should be Austria's natural defence. The Italian forces have penetrated so far into the enemy's territory as to have reached a line that they consider should be the Italian frontier. But their task is likely to be more difficult as the Austrians are reinforced by troops which have been engaged on the Galician front.

The French Fleet in the Adriatic has been relieved by the Italian Fleet. For ten months it has stopped Austrian trade and paralysed the Austrian Navy, and, though little has been heard of its operations, its potency has been felt in every corner of the Mediterranean. In the course of its long vigil it has, too, acquired new strength as a fighting instrument, for while holding the enemy at every point, it has steadily continued its training, one of the advantages of a fleet which is able to keep at sea.

### The American Note.

The international situation is unchanged. When Mr. Bryan resigned as a protest against the provocative tone of the American Note to Germany, everyone assumed that it was of the "big stick" order. Now that it has been published his position is inexplicable. He himself has tried to make it clear in six different messages, and failed. The Note, though firm in tone, is moderate to friendliness, merely asserting the elementary rights of a neutral Power and Sovereign State. It only differs from its predecessor in its reference to the *Lusitania*, the stain of which cannot be wiped out by monetary compensation. Germany has, for the present, abandoned her hectoring attitude towards the United States, but as she seems inclined to adopt dilatory methods in determining her reply, President Wilson will see nothing much to commend itself in the change. Meanwhile the Kaiser's emissary, Herr Dernburg, has returned to Berlin, having been granted a safe conduct across the Atlantic by Great Britain, whose courtesy he has acknowledged.

### The Submarine.

The increase in power and radius of action of the new German submarines renders them a factor to be reckoned with, even in that far theatre of the war, the eastern Mediterranean. Unlike other types of ships they cannot be fought with their like, when they are submerged the sea itself protecting them from attack and pursuit. However many we possessed of these vessels, then, they would be powerless to prevent German submarine piracy.

### Air Raids.

The attacks on London by means of Zeppelins have ceased for the present, but they are still reported from the North-East Coast. In the last the loss of life was heavy, though not so heavy as in the previous one, in which the casualties were 64, 24 of which were deaths. The French have successfully raided Karlsruhe, the capital of the Duchy of Baden. Bombs were dropped on the castle, the arms factory, and the railway station, fires breaking out in many places. The enemy themselves report that the casualties were 19 killed and 15 injured. Germany is highly indignant at this raid on what she calls "an open and undefended town." Her protest comes well indeed from a country which shelled English villages as "fortified places." Karlsruhe, it should be noted, is the headquarters of the 14th German Army Corps, and possesses an arms factory and large chemical works. If this is "an open and undefended town," what is Whitby, the East Coast seaside resort shelled in the winter? Nevertheless, German opinion expresses itself as "calm but bitter." An official communiqué published as we go to press announces that a French airman has succeeded in dropping eight bombs on Zeppelin sheds at Friedrichshafen.

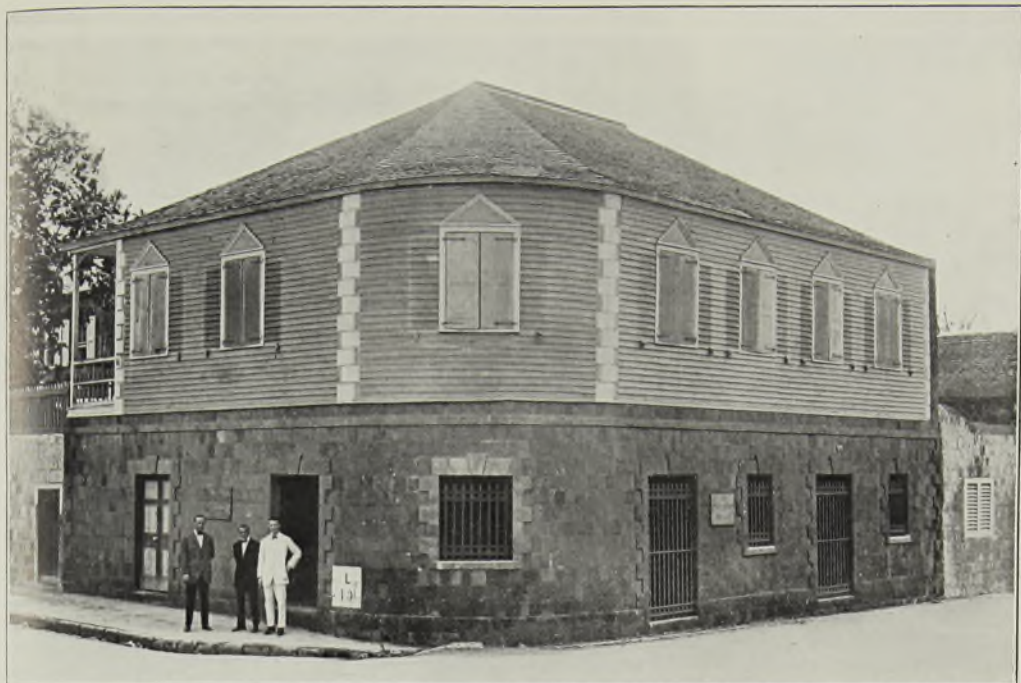
The British naval casualties up to May 31st have been officially given as 13,547. Of these 8,245 were killed.

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ONLY British subjects are eligible for membership of the West India Committee, particulars of which are obtainable from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The subscription for the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 ts. or \$5.00 per annum post free to any part of the world.

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In a recent number of the *Public Health Reports* of the United States, Messrs. Goldberger, Waring and Willets deal with the subject of pellagra, that serious skin disease so prevalent in the West Indies. They consider that the disease is neither infectious nor contagious, but is due to some error in diet, in which the proportion of animal or leguminous protein is abnormally small and the non-leguminous vegetable constituent abnormally large. The treatment of the disease should be the substitution of a well balanced diet for one deficient in essential details. An increased use of milk, eggs, lean meat and legumes is recommended.



THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS.



SUGAR-CANES IN THE LATELY ARID CARIB COUNTRY, ST. VINCENT.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### V.—THE GREAT POTENTIALITIES OF NIGERIA.

Hitherto Nigeria has not been a sugar exporting country. A report furnished by His Excellency, the Governor-General of the Colony, in reply to the letter addressed by the West India Committee to the Governments of the sugar producing colonies asking what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry, makes it clear, however, that its potentialities in this connection are very great and that there is plenty of scope for the development of the sugar industry on a large scale, provided that preferential treatment is given to colonial cane sugar after the war. The Governor-General's letter and the report are as follows:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Nigeria,

Lagos, 19th May, 1915.

Sir,—In reply to your letter No. 372 of the 6th January, I am directed to forward you copies of reports from the Directors of Agriculture of the Northern and Southern Provinces (8th April 1915, 30th April, 1915) regarding the extent of land in Nigeria suitable for sugar growing, and the conditions of labour.

I am to add that the establishment of distilleries in Nigeria is prohibited by law.

2. If after considering these reports, your Committee desires to pursue the matter further His Excellency the Governor-General will be glad to obtain replies to definite questions or to facilitate the enquiries of an expert should your Committee desire to send one to report after inspecting local conditions.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

D. C. CAMERON,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

[Enclosure.]

The Department of Agriculture,  
Zaria, Northern Provinces.  
8th March, 1915.

Sir,—In reply to Colonial Secretary's letter No. N. 296/1915 of 6th February requesting information on the prospects of a sugar industry in the Northern Provinces, I have the honour to report as follows:—

1. The cultivation of sugar-cane is impracticable in the Northern Provinces without the aid of irrigation, owing to the long dry season, extending annually from November to March inclusive. Where natural facilities for irrigation exist, such as a perennial stream or spring, the cultivation of sugar-cane is practised throughout the country up to an altitude of 2,500 feet.

2. Cuttings are planted from November till February (being first "struck" in a pool of water), and are watered at intervals of every few days throughout the dry season. During the rainy season, when the precipitation averages 30 in. to 60 in. in six months, irrigation is unnecessary.

The crop has hitherto been entirely absorbed locally, being chewed in the raw state, a well-grown cane being worth 3d.

4. The fields of sugar-cane are unusually small, but are generously treated with pen manure, and very thickly planted with canes. It would be extremely rash to attempt to estimate the total area at present devoted to this crop, but the small plots which are to be found in the vicinity of most villages must in the aggregate amount to something considerable.

5. The native cane is of moderate height and thickness. The skin is green and relatively tender. The juice appears to be rich in sugar, but has not been subjected to analysis. An effort is now being made by a mission to introduce a mill of West Indian type for expressing the juice, in order to prepare sugar for the local market. The results of this enterprise are awaited with interest.

6. Last year five varieties of Barbados pedigree cane were introduced for comparison with the indigenous variety. They are doing well.

7. So far as the possibilities for European enterprise are concerned I am of opinion that the only chance of success would be in the river flats of the Niger or Benue. Here suitable sites for very large plantations could no doubt be found. The essential part of the undertaking would be a powerful irrigation plant on the river bank. The question of drainage in high flood would also have to be dealt with. It is highly probable, however, that were pumping necessary in order to drain certain parts of the estate, the irrigation pump could be employed for this purpose.

8. The supply of fuel, either wood or local coal, would not be a difficult matter on the river.

9. A plentiful supply of unskilled labour would be forthcoming at about 1s. per day.

10. No draught animals could be kept as trypanosomiasis would almost certainly prove fatal to them. Conditions would, however, appear to be favourable for steam traction which, on a large scale, would probably prove far more economical.

11. The question of finding a cheap source of manure would have to be solved, but here again it must be remembered that water-transport is very economical.

12. In conclusion I would venture to express the view that, in the event of preferential treatment being given to colonial cane sugar, the possibilities of Nigeria as a source of supply are well worthy of the most careful inquiry.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) P. H. LAMB,

Director of Agriculture, Northern Provinces.

The Secretary, Northern Provinces,  
Zungeru.

Director of Agriculture,  
Ibadan, Southern Provinces,  
30th April, 1915.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you in reply to letter No. B. 290/1915 of 9th February, 1915, forwarding copy of a letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee on the subject of sugar growing in this country, that I am of opinion the vast areas of land in the vicinity of the various rivers and creeks in this country are admirably adapted for sugar-growing under irrigation. I am unable to give even an approximate estimate of the extent of these areas, but they comprise many thousands of acres. The soil and climatic conditions are similar in many respects to those which obtain on the Zambese River, where sugar has been profitably cultivated for many years.

2. The people in all these areas are, however, engaged in the palm oil and kernel industry, and it is therefore

doubtful whether labourers would be obtainable in large numbers.

3. Before any large sum of money is invested in sugar growing it would be advisable to conduct experiments on an extensive scale for several years.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) W. H. JOHNSON,  
Director of Agriculture.

The Secretary, Southern Provinces,  
Lagos.

In preceding CIRCULARS we have published official reports from British Guiana, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and the Leeward Islands showing that under favourable conditions their possible output of cane sugar might be as follows:—

	Tons.
British Guiana	2,500,000
Mauritius	305,000
Fiji	172,072*
Trinidad and Tobago (1914 crop)	55,488
The Leeward Islands	41,500

It has thus been shown that these colonies alone could produce more than enough sugar to meet the requirements of the United Kingdom, and to displace the German and Austrian sugar, on which consumers in this country were mainly dependent before the war.

### THE DUTCH STANDARD.

Correspondence between Sir George Foster, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, and the West India Committee on the subject of the Dutch Standard in connection with the Canadian Sugar Tariff was published in these columns on May 4th. It will be remembered that, on account of the difference in the Standards as prepared year by year, the No. 16 of which is used in the Canadian Tariff to mark the boundary between the high and low scales of duty, considerable trouble arose in the assessment of some West Indian sugars to the detriment of certain kinds, and that the West India Committee represented the trouble to the Canadian Government, suggesting the removal of the Dutch Standard clause from the tariff, and assessment of the duties on polarisation alone.

The matter was also taken up by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, on the strength of an informal letter from Sir George Foster to the Secretary of the Chamber in which he raised the question as to "whether the Governments of the different islands would agree to the substitution of a polariscope test for the Dutch Standard in the Agreement made between the two parties. The Chamber subsequently invited the views of the other West Indian Chambers on the subject, and it is not surprising to learn that the consensus of opinion is that the sooner the Dutch Standard is abolished, the better.

\* This figure was incorrectly given in the preceding CIRCULAR.

## THE NATAL SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### Successful Cane-Farming.

Addressing the Delegates at the recent Conference of the Natal Agricultural Union, the President, Mr. S. B. Woollatt, said that for the first time in its history the sugar produced in Natal had exceeded 100,000 tons in one year. It was calculated that, given reasonable conditions as to labour and returns, twice that output could ultimately be reached in Natal alone, while in Zululand the prospects were still more hopeful.

Mr. Woollatt proceeded to say that the sugar industry was rapidly changing its character. Not so many years ago the industry was in very few hands and it became particularly unpopular with the mercantile politician, who constantly conjured up visions of a few millionaires fattening on profits drawn from forced labour, Customs duties, and preferential railway rates. There was never much truth in the millionaire theory, and to-day there was less than ever. Probably no branch of agriculture showed more success in the working of small holdings than the sugar industry. In Natal and Zululand there were nearly 200 planters whose holdings did not exceed 500 acres, and in no case did such holdings exceed 1,000 acres.

The practice of relying on a number of planters to supply central mills was increasing, and it was certain that progress in the production of the industry would depend chiefly on a further extension of this principle.

### Beet Sugar in South Africa.

In the Durban *Agricultural News* "Ajax" refers to the revival of the movement for founding a beet sugar industry in Natal. "I do not think," he writes, "that there is much doubt that our lands would grow the right kind of beet, and that this beet could be manufactured into sugar, but could we sell that sugar in the world's markets in competition with other European and foreign countries? It seems reasonably safe to answer in the negative. We could not certainly do it under that 'market for white labour,' which is the forlorn hope of so many attractive theorists in this country.

"It must be nearly ten years ago since the present writer wrote a good deal in the daily press concerning the founding of a beet industry in this Province, and even then it was a speculative concern, but the conditions of the country were different then from what they are to-day; but even at that time it was considered hopeless, or at least too speculative for most farmers to become enamoured of its glowing prospects. If a satisfactory market could be relied upon, no doubt a beet sugar industry could be successfully established in Natal and other parts of South Africa, but that is an objective which theoretical writers studiously avoid, or perhaps they have never realised its true significance.

"The cane industry is fully supplying the needs

of the South African people at the present time in a very satisfactory manner, keeping prices at a reasonable and low standard, so, if beet sugar came to be manufactured it would have to find a market abroad, where it would be in competition with Russia, France, Belgium and other European countries which export beet sugar in times of peace.

"Now, what hope has Natal grown beet sugar, manufactured with what all admit to be expensive labour, and after paying export charges, freights, and so forth, of selling at a price calculated to give even a small return, in competition with the cheap labour and local markets of European manufactured sugar?"

**THE CANADA-WEST INDIES MAIL SERVICE.**

**The Passenger and Freight Returns.**

A Canadian Sessional Paper (No. 100, 1915) gives details of the various mail services subsidised by the Dominion Government, and the estimates for subsidies for the year ending March 31st, 1916. These amount to \$2,962,900.66 as compared with \$2,952,367.32 for the preceding year, and include \$340,666.66 for the Canada-West Indies mail service. The traffic returns of this service since 1907 have been as under:—

**The Canada-West Indies Mail Service, 1907-1914.**

Calendar Year	No. of round trips runs.	Number of Passengers Carried.				Tons of Freight Carried.			Live Stock.	Mails.		Subsidy Paid.	
		First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.	Total No. of Passengers.	Tons weight.	Tons Measurement.	Total of Freight.		Lock Bags.	Tied Sacks.		
1907	30				6,510			119,787	Not stated.	Not stated.	63,510.00		
1908	30	1,558	1,065	1,738	4,351	36,113	79,154	115,267	86	52	3,833	65,700.00	
1909	30	1,573	987	1,993	4,553	63,129	54,953	118,082	1,100	246	3,805	65,700.00	
1910	30	1,595	1,170	2,748	5,513	66,474	82,800	149,274	390	463	3,225	65,700.00	
1911	29	1,044	857	1,346	3,247	69,927	76,398	146,325	151	209	2,543	65,700.00	
1912	30	1,090	1,269	1,048	3,407	65,552	86,253	180,132	106	168	2,568	87,613.86	
1913	28½	887	827	1,016	2,730	52,313	70,209	122,611	44	144	2,396	131,737.12	
1914	26	In	598	277	896	47,812	24	312	600	5	312	600	330,897.33
		Out	482	188	846	4,508	90,374	43	391	1,027			
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>3,287</b>	<b>52,320</b>	<b>90,398</b>	<b>142,718</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1,627</b>	

The origin, quantity and value of the cargo exported from Canada, none of which was of United States origin have been as given in the following table:—

Calendar Year	From.	Tons weight.	Tons Measurement.	Value \$
1912	St. John	1,377½	20,099½	383,536
	Halifax	5,044½	62,147½	1,941,990
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,422½</b>	<b>82,147½</b>	<b>2,325,526</b>
1913	St. John	2,137	13,038	259,381
	Halifax	5,786	56,819	1,800,169
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,923</b>	<b>69,857</b>	<b>2,059,550</b>
1914	St. John	1,557	15,120	234,008
	Halifax	2,951	75,254	2,384,256
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,508</b>	<b>90,374</b>	<b>2,618,264</b>

The principal articles exported from Canada were fish, canned salmon, canned goods, flour, feed, meal, oilmeal, hay, oats, cheese, butter, eggs, apples, potatoes, split peas, vegetables, groceries, beef, live stock, mineral water, tea, soap, sulphate of ammonia, fertilizer, lumber, shingles, shooks, laths, furniture, chairs, brooms, brushes, stoves, trunks, rope, cordage, nails, paper, and biscuits.

**OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.**

**A New Bank Building in St. Kitts.**

The Royal Bank of Canada, which started operations in the British West Indies in 1903 has now no fewer than 13 branches in those colonies, besides 27 in Cuba, Porto Rico and Santo Domingo. In the present CIRCULAR will be found an illustration of the building in Basseterre which shelters the St. Kitts' branch of the Bank opened recently under the management of Mr. H. H. Hart—son of the late Mr. John Hinchley Hart, F.I.S., of Trinidad. The building is characterised by its extreme simplicity—which renders it not without architectural merit—and is typical of the majority of houses in the island, the lower story being of stone with a superstructure of timber roofed with wooden shingles

which usually take the place of tiles in the West Indies, where that abomination, iron roofing, is not used. Provided the St. Kitts branch of the Bank proves a success it will not be surprising if a more elaborate building is erected before very long.

**St. Vincent's Fertile Carib Country.**

The second illustration, which is reproduced from a photograph for which we have to thank Mr. W. N. Sands, depicts some of the sugar-canes which are now growing prolifically in the Carib Country of St. Vincent. It furnishes proof of the remarkable recuperative powers of the tropics and the great fertility of the soil in St. Vincent. As recently as 1902 the Carib Country was devastated by the eruption of the Soufrière Volcano. After that disaster it was covered with ejecta and resembled an arid desert.



By degrees, however, vegetation began to reassert itself and the soil is now as productive as it was of old. And yet, after the eruption, the desirability of abandoning St. Vincent—if it did not disappear under the sea as it was reported by one paper to be about to do—was seriously discussed by a section of the Press.

The Carib Country is the tract of land reserved to the Caribs by the treaty with Major-General Dalrymple of 1773. After the suppression of the "Brigands' War" by Sir Ralph Abercromby in 1796 most of the Caribs were deported and their lands were re-vested in the Crown in 1804.

### AGRICULTURE IN BARBADOS.

The Report of the Department of Agriculture of Barbados for the season December, 1911, to May, 1913, the publication of which is somewhat belated, is entirely devoted to the sugar industry. Part I. gives the quantity and composition of the rainfall for the period of the Report, and shows that this amounted to 49.37 in. Part II. is a record of the work done in connection with manurial experiments at Dodd's Botanic Station. The plots all received 20 tons per acre of farmyard manure as a basis for subsequent manuring with artificial manures. Summarizing the results of 20 years manuring it is found that in the nitrogen series the best monetary result was obtained when 40 lbs. per acre of nitrogen as sulphate of ammonia was used, the next best result being obtained with dried blood. In all the phosphate plots there was pecuniary loss as compared with results of the "no phosphate" plot, with the exception of the plot which had received 100 lbs. of basic slag per acre. With superphosphates the average loss was from £14 13s. to £6 18s. per acre. As regards the application of potash there was in every instance, save one, a distinct pecuniary gain. In some estates' experiments with nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of lime and nitrolim, the three first manures gave practically the same results, while that of nitrolim was a little lower.

Part III. deals with the experiments on seedling and other canes. As the results of experiments for the years 1909, 1910, 1912 and 1913, with plant canes on black soils B6450 occupies the first place with a yield of 7,351 lbs. of saccharose per acre. With red soils, the premier position is occupied by the same cane, with a saccharose yield of 10,210 lbs. per acre. With ratoons, only existing on the red soils, B3922 heads the list with 8,141 lbs. of saccharose as first ratoons and 7,236 lbs. as second ratoons. The Report speaks very highly of B6450. From the estates' results this cane gave 4.87 tons of cane per acre more than the White Transparent as ratoons and 7.05 tons as plants.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

### LAND SETTLEMENT IN ST. VINCENT.

#### A Prosperous Peasant Proprietary.

An official report has just been published on the administration of the Imperial Grant in aid of Land Settlement in St. Vincent to supplement one prepared by Mr. Tatham and issued in 1911.\*

Mr. Tatham gave the history of the scheme from its inception in 1898, and Mr. J. Landreth Smith, F.S.I., Superintendent of Crown Lands, in the further report now published† brings the story of the settlement of the people on the land down to November, 1914. Eight distinct areas in the island have now been dealt with, namely those of Linley Valley and Cumberland Valley near the centre of the Leeward coast, Lammies near Barouallie, also on the west side of the island, Clare Valley and Questelles to the north west of Kingstown, Richmond Hill near the capital, Belair a few miles north-west of Calliaqua, Park Hill and Adelphi on the Windward side of the island, and Sandy Bay on the north-east coast.

Of these Lammies, Belair and Sandy Bay have been acquired since the last report was published. Efforts to purchase Fairhall Estate near Calliaqua failed owing to the unwillingness of the owners to part with it.

After the eruption of 1902 the few surviving Caribs were removed from the north of the island to the south, but as they became restless and dissatisfied and begged to be reinstated, Sandy Bay Estate in their favourite Carib Country was purchased and divided up into 50 allotments for them.

The settlement of peasants on the other estates acquired has proceeded on satisfactory lines. Owing probably to the inflow of money from the Panama Canal Zone the prosperity of the peasants has shown marked improvement in recent years, and the applications for allotments at one time came in in such numbers that the best portions of the reserve lands in the Linley and Clare Valleys, which had not been apportioned owing to their apparent unsuitability for agricultural purposes, were offered for sale and found ready purchasers.

There are now seventy miles of roads on the properties acquired. The New Adelphi Arrowroot and Sugar Works which have recently been improved were leased in 1913 to Mr. Egbert Dasant on his undertaking to handle peasants' arrowroot on the same terms as the Government had done. The erection of small arrowroot works at Clare and Linley Valleys was encouraged and many of the peasants now have their own works.

The system of purchasing seed cotton from small growers at the Government Cotton Ginnery met with great success. As an example Mr. Smith states that at the end of the 1912-13 cotton crop 6,118

\* Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous. [Cd. 5742]. See the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 338 (September 12, 1911), page 433.

† Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous. [Cd. 7876]

13s. 1d. was distributed in bonuses among the small growers. This sum represented 30 per cent. of the total amount paid to them in purchasing their cotton, and, as a very small percentage of these growers, probably not more than 10 per cent., were non-land settlement allottees, it will be readily seen says Mr. Smith, how beneficial this system is to the Land Settlement Scheme.

The total expenditure on Land Settlement in the colony (including that on Union Island, to which reference is made below) to March 31st, 1914, was £34,982 11s. 3d., while the receipts including £15,000, the Imperial Grant in Aid, were £36,264 9s. 8d. Of the expenditure £14,691 4s. was absorbed by purchase of land.

### The Union Island Scheme.

A separate report, prepared by Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, F.L.S., before he left for the Turks and Caicos Islands, is devoted to land settlement in Union Island, which, though attached to the government of St. Vincent, is, on account of the proximity of the island to Carriacou administered by the Commissioner of that dependency of Grenada.

The inauguration of the Union Island scheme dates from June, 1910, when possession of the island was obtained. The regulations under the local ordinance as to the allotment of the land and the conditions of sale included provisions

(a) for the administration of the scheme, under the direction of the Government, by the Commissioner.

(b) for a valuation of the lots to be made by the Commissioner, assisted by assessors, subject to Government approval—such valuation to cover cost of purchase, interest at 5 per cent. for a period of 12 years, legal expenses, and survey.

(c) that in allotment priority was to be given to purchasers paying 20 per cent. of the value; in every case however, the first choice to be given to existing tenants of a lot.

(d) that in the case of persons paying 20 per cent. twelve years was to be allowed for payment of the balance by annual instalments.

(e) that no allotment could be alienated, let, or encumbered, for a period of twelve years from its allotment without the Governor's consent.

(f) that on failure by an allottee to comply with any of the conditions of tenure, the Governor could order the forfeiture of all his rights thereto, or make such other order as the circumstances of the case required, and

(g) that three portions of land, as nearly as possible 100 acres, 50 acres, and 30 acres, respectively, suitable to be worked as small estates, were to be marked out and included by the assessors under the valuations already referred to.

Prior to the inauguration of the scheme the island was private property and was worked as a cotton plantation on the metayer system. The inhabitants descendants of the old slave days, who for generations had resided on the island—and in 1910 numbered about 1,800—resided in two closely packed villages of squalid wattle and daub huts, without the least regard for privacy or sanitation. They were not allowed to grow provisions, except in special localities, where the soil was sandy and almost worthless for cultivation, nor were they allowed to

keep any stock larger than goats. In such circumstances, says Mr. Whitfield Smith, it is not surprising to find that the inhabitants of Union Island bore a most unenviable reputation for lawlessness and indifference. The squalid villages are disappearing and, on the lands of the allottees, are found neat and substantial wooden cottages (sometimes of two stories) with glass windows and other indications of builders who are intent on improving their conditions of living. In 1915 the cotton crop had risen from 42 to 117 bales and there were at the date of the report no less than 87 cattle and horses, the property of the allottees.

Mr. Whitfield Smith makes special reference to the wise and important regulations passed by the Government whereby the allottees are enabled to sell their cotton crops to the Government Cotton Ginnery on the basis of a fair market valuation. This has been one of the main factors of success in the Union Island Land Scheme. He describes the system as follows: The peasant cotton grower receives an advance of 1d. to 1½d per lb. for his seed-cotton (cotton fresh from the field) in the first instance. The raw product is then taken to the Government Cotton Ginnery at Kingstown, St. Vincent, where it is ginned and cleaned by the most approved methods. The seed is retained at the factory to go towards working expenses and the lint is shipped to England. From the account sales, when received, is first deducted the advance already mentioned; next, a small charge of about one-fifth per cent., to finally cover working expenses, and the remainder of the money is divided *pro rata* among the growers. "How beneficial this provision has been to the Union Island peasant may be inferred when I state that, whereas the former receives about £12 per bale for his cotton, the Carriacou peasant, on the other hand, where such fostering care does not yet exist, seldom receives more than £8 to £9 per bale." A similar buying scheme was started at the Carriacou Government Cotton Ginnery in the season 1914-15.

To March 31st, 1914, the total expenditure on the Union Island scheme was £7,015 16s. 3d., while the receipts, including rents, were £2,151 6s. 11d., leaving a debit balance of £4,864 9s. 4d.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

## A SPORTING TOUR IN TOBAGO.

### The Island in the Early 'Forties.

As an island for sport too little is known of Tobago, the prosperous Ward of Trinidad. It boasts wild life in plenty as we have been reminded by an old file of the *Tobago Gazette*, for which we are indebted to Mr. G. David Hatt of Scarborough. In that year Dr., afterwards Sir, John Worrell Carrington was the Administrator of Tobago, which was then a separate colony.

Dr. Carrington was responsible for a departure in the dry-as-dust *Official Gazette*, publishing in that usually portentous publication interesting notes on expeditions in the island, which no doubt afforded pleasant and interesting reading to Tobagonians while helping at the same time to advertise the amenities of the island.

Not the least interesting of these notes was a series giving an account of excursions up the rivers and into the woods of Tobago, about forty years before the date of publication, or in the early 'forties of last century. The writer was the late Mr. Robert Crooks of Milford, the local Inspector of Police, who seems to have been possessed of true sporting instincts coupled with a gift of observation.

With a younger brother, two attendants, *couleau de chasse*—probably a machete or cutlass—a gun and dogs, a spear for crayfish and a plentiful supply of champagne sangaree, he explored the West Hillsboro' or Hope River to its source. In the course of the expedition the party passed many gullies fringed with trees of immense size, milk-wood, or the bullet tree (*mimusops globosa*) predominating. The soil up the gullies and valleys was moist and exceedingly rich in vegetable matter. Wild ginger, plantains, tannias or eddoes and ferns abounded, forming a shade which the sun could scarcely penetrate. The game encountered included cockorico, pigeon and partridges, while peccary, agouti and armadillo were met in abundance. The only fish were crayfish, the author giving as a reason "the mullets can't ascend the falls."

The water parting was reached in eight hours, and it was found that the river rose near the Main ridge "a crescent formed break of the land—faced with strong dead rock gives the first appearance of water which trickles down into a small basin from which it was lost in sand for about 50 yards."

Here the explorers looked after the inner man. "A halt for grub—a big crayfish caught under a stone—and the home-cooked dishes—with the intoxicators and no end of effervescent Pepper Punch (which suffered most), but no Champagne, was attacked kindly. Appetite satisfied—thirst well quenched—attendants gorged—loaded with quarters of peccary, etc. We made a start and reached home about 6 o'clock p.m."

The second excursion was up the East Hillsboro' or Green Hill River, and was made in the company

of Lieut. Connolly of the 23rd Regiment (who afterwards fell in the Battle of the Alma), Lieut. Sankey, of the 1st West India Regiment, and Lieut. Mackie, of the Royal Artillery—for this was in the palmy days when there was still a garrison of Imperial troops in Tobago. They were afoot at 7 a.m., after "coffee," a term which in West Indian vernacular denotes the first meal of the day, and found the river close to the abandoned Caledonia Sugar works, of which the boiling house and curing house walls were still standing though surrounded by tall forest trees. On this estate in the olden days camels were employed to carry the sugar which was shipped at Studley Park, Barbados Bay, the roads being so bad owing to the heavy rainfall in the locality as to be impassable by other draught animals. The use of camels had, however, to be given up owing to their susceptibility to attacks from Chigoes or Jiggers—tiny flea-like insects which insinuate themselves into the toes of those who are sufficiently unwary to go about bare-footed to this day.

The river was found to resemble very closely the West Hillsboro' River in its current, depth, etc., but its valleys were larger and its tropical trees more luxuriant. Fancy birds answered one another from the branches and all nature seemed awake. Near the head of the river a beautiful waterfall was discovered, which not even the Commissioners who originally surveyed the lands in the island for sale had seen.

### An Elusive Game Preserve.

This made up for the disappointment of the party at not finding a trace of a large swamp where, they had been told by hunters, all kinds of ducks, herons and water birds were to be seen in immense numbers. A further ascent for a short distance brought them to the main ridge with a grand view of the sea and the works of Castara far below. The old military road was then found, but it was so overgrown with wild plantain and ginger that cutlasses had to be brought into requisition, and Englishman's Bay was reached at 4 o'clock. Here on the following morning the writer witnessed an interesting scene soon after sunrise: "The Dwelling House was so situated that you looked straight down almost into the sea. The sea was so calm and clear that the fish entering the bay to feed on the fry that blackened it, could be distinctly seen with the naked eye.

"About 40 or 50 shoals pressed for the bay each having about 300 fish—but with three or four large sharks swimming amongst them in the most friendly fashion—but how changed their conduct when they arrived at the Bay—the moment the fish commenced beating on the fry—thereby creating a great commotion and stoppage of swimming—the friendly sharks commenced an attack upon them, and numbers, if not swallowed whole, were cut in two—Bathers, beware!"

A later expedition from West Hillsboro' River to Charlotte Ville by way of the Main Ridge was productive of much better sport. In a hut thatched with

palm leaves and their beds the branches the travellers, however, obtained little rest. "On every side not far from us, the gangs of cockoricoes raised their voices to the highest pitch, of 'Cockricoo, country turn'; agouties came for their morning meal of gru gru nuts;—the Kings of the Wood were enquiring—"Who you"; while the whistle and chirp of innumerable birds and insects filled the air and were a prohibition to further sleep.

"One of our men took the gun and dogs, and added to our commissariat a few cockoricoes and agoutis. We put fire to a couple of gru-gru trees for amusement, and two manacoos and some peccary rats, after climbing up the branches to the top, jumped down and were killed—a help to the followers' pot."

### The Beef-wood Tree.

On this expedition what most struck them was the great variety of trees, which included the "Pauder, which bears a large bean or pod, esteemed by the parrots—the pulp being very sweet—I was informed was sold in the Trinidad market. A few nutting trees, the seeds with a scanty mace, scarcely deserved the name—a locust tree occasionally—the beef-wood, the colour and smell of corned beef—the Naked Bay, having little or no bark. Others of which we were ignorant and dependent upon 'Celim' for their names and uses."

On the banks of a branch of the Goldsboro' River the party partook of a delightful al fresco meal, "A number of good sized mullets were caught by Baptiste; these cooked in greased paper—a squeeze of lime—a few bird peppers—a little salt, for a sauce—added much to our breakfast, which we made there and then, and was fit for the veriest epicure."

These extracts from a sportsman's notes may be brought to a close by the following snake stories, "The Boa from what I have seen, is neither venomous nor wicked. A woman trampled on one, was bitten on the foot, and several fangs left there were picked out—a hot glass of 'Toddy' was given to her, and she suffered no bad effects.

"In looking for hard wood, I sat upon one coiled in the cavity of a fallen tree, while eating breakfast; nothing occurred to me, but the carpenter who was with me, taking my place for his 'snack' was seen to send plate, ham, and everything, himself included, flying—the Boa crawled out from sleep to meet death.

"On another occasion my dogs were in chase of an agouti in rather thick scrub, when I heard the death note 'Me go pay you,' I went to the place, gun in hand, peeping—peering, to find the agouti—upon lifting up my head, a large Boa, within a yard of me, was looking right into my face with glistening eyes, rapid movement of its forked tongue, and body erect. In very quick time, the gun was to the shoulder—but had it been inclined, it had the first chance, and could have planted its fangs in my face, and taken a turn round me. It measured 12 feet.

"Another, and I close with snakes. Out shooting with my man 'Quashey,' we met about ten Boas all in a lump—after taking a good look at them we retired to a safe distance, and gave the heap the right and left barrels of two double guns, some remained, the rest, with a kind of moan, scattered in all directions—it was not a pleasing sight.

"As a rule, the Boa seizes the animals with the mouth, taking immediately a double or two round them—if dogs are present, the animal (dead) is placed at its tail, and with body erect, it is ready for a fight. These instances were in places near home, and not far in the woods."

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

Following a consignment of 22 cases of Dominica limes for our sick and wounded soldiers, and a case of socks, comforters, etc., from Mrs. Brodie, of Grenada, which arrived at London in the R.M.S. *Danube*, 31 cases of limes from the Dominica planters and two cases of grape-fruit from Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, editor of the Grenada *West Indian*, reached Liverpool in the R.M.S. *Orissa*, on May 31. Owing, however, to the congestion in the Mersey, the cargo in the *Orissa* was not discharged until June 25. On June 17, six cases of lemons and one case of Trinidad chocolate—the latter for the soldiers in the trenches—from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, were delivered at Tilbury with 30 more cases of limes from Dominica and a further package of comforts from Mrs. Brodie and her friends in Grenada, to whom letters of thanks have been sent by Lady French and Lady Jellicoe. Many letters of acknowledgment of the fruit and other gifts have also been posted to Mr. Randolph Rust, Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, President of the Dominica Agricultural Society and his colleague, Mr. J. G. McIntyre, and to Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The "Olde English Fayre," held recently at Mon Nid, San Fernando, Trinidad, an account of which was given by our Hon. Correspondent in that island in last CIRCULAR, has benefited the "Officers' Families' Fund" to the extent of no less than \$4,000. A draft for that amount was received by last mail and forwarded to Lady Lansdowne, the President of the Fund, who has sent a cordial letter of acknowledgment to Mrs. Perez, the organiser of the most successful "Fayre."

At the annual meeting of the Burnah Oil Company on June 16th, Mr. John T. Cargill, the Chairman, said that in the field taken over from the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., a fairly steady production had been maintained, but there were difficulties to be overcome before commercial success could be said to be secured.

## OUR INDIAN TROOPS AT THE FRONT.

The large East Indian communities in British Guiana and Trinidad have good cause to be proud of the prowess of the Indian expeditionary forces in France and Flanders and at the Dardanelles. Dr. S. A. Kapadia, Lecturer to the University College, London, recently delivered an interesting address on "Our Indian Troops at the Front," at the London Chamber of Commerce, in the course of which he gave an account of the formation and development of the Indian army. At the outset he said that to those who intimately knew the heart and mind of India it had not been a matter of wonder that her Princes and people had at once made so ample and full hearted a response to the call of their sovereign to co-operate with British troops on the battlefields of Europe.

The first man to undertake the work of forming an Indian Army on the lines of the British Army was Duplex, who, in 1746, raised several battalions of Mahomedan soldiers in the Carnatic. A few years later Major Striuger Lawrence, who was called the father of the Indian Army enrolled Sepoys in Madras. Subsequently after each great victory over a particular race that race formed part of the Indian Army. The forces were raised in no haphazard way, and were based on a most systematic grouping of men by race, sect and clan, so that full advantage was taken of race efficiency. The existing soldier tribes of race might be divided into the following sections.

1. The Sikhs, from Upper India (Punjab), from the races of Jats and Gujars.
2. The Rajputs (literal meaning: Sons of Princes), and Dogras.
3. The Gurkhas.
4. The Maharattas.
5. The Mahomedans, from the Punjab.
6. The Afghans, Pathans and Afridis.

The Afghans and Gurkhas were from outside the limits of India proper, but the remainder inhabited the different parts of the country. The principal recruiting centres in India were the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province, the United Provinces, together with Rajputana and Central India and Bombay.

The Sikhs as a religious sect were founded by Guru Nanak, a spiritual teacher born near Lahore in 1469. He preached the existence of a God, and his religion was a kind of Puritan Hinduism, simplicity, kindness, purity and brotherhood being its leading principles. The faith spread far and wide in the Punjab, and converts were constantly being added to it, especially from the large agricultural race, spread over the whole of Upper India, called the Jats, which formed two-thirds of the Sikhs. The word "Sikh" meant a disciple, and every Sikh name ended with "Singh," which was given it by Govind, the tenth Guru. The affix "Singh" meant a lion, and in those days they had acquired the military

characteristics and defended the weak against the strong, the poor against the rich, the just against the unjust. They well deserved this title.

The term Gurkha was now applied to all the inhabitants of Nepal, but was originally applied to a small tribe inhabiting Gurkha, a small part of Nepal. The religion of the Gurkhas might be described as Hinduism of the simplest kind verging on Buddhism. Their language which was of Sanscrit origin was similar to Hindu. The Gurkhas were very thick-set and muscular; they made most active and disciplined soldiers, of considerable fighting value.

The Maharattas were the inhabitants of Maharashtra, an old name given to the Vindhya mountains and the forests of Deccan, and the Dogras came from hills between Punjab and Cashmere.

The Dogra Regiments were first formed about twenty-five years ago. The Dogras, who came from hills between Punjab and Cashmere, were characterised by good behaviour, high courage, and physical endurance. They came of Rajput and Brahman tribes, descendants of those old Hindu races which did not embrace Islam and took refuge in the hills. The Mahomedans of the Punjab were chiefly composed of converts from various Hindu tribes who were compelled to accept the Mahomedan religion in the time of the Mahomedan domination. They largely consisted of Rajput tribes who were converted to Islam at various periods of history. All arms of the service were open to them.

The Pathans and Afghans formed a fine strong race, some living on the North-West Frontier and some in Afghanistan. They were believed to have a Jewish descent as their names, like Jacob, Joseph and Isaac, showed. The true Afghans, indeed, called themselves the "Children of Israel." They were descended from an ancestor named Kais, who was the chief of a Jewish tribe and lived in the mountains north-west of Khandahar.

The Afridis who lived in the Khyber Pass on the hills were descended from Aryan stock. The old Rajput meant literally "the Sons of Rulers," the princely clan being descended from one of the three great divisions of Aryans who ruled over India in former times. These were the Brahmins or Priests, the Kshatryas or soldier, and the Vaisiyas or merchants and cultivators. The Brahmins later became cultivators as well and all three divisions spread far and wide over India. The Rajputs were divided according to old tradition into three great races, the Lunar race, the Solar race, and the Agnicular, or fireclans. These three races were sub-divided into thirty-six royal clans, differing from each other in their religious beliefs and rites. The Brahmin class was divided into two sections, Gaur and Dravira, which again are sub-divided into a great many clans each. The Gaur division is formed with its innumerable clans in the north of the Vindhya mountains. Both the Rajputs and Brahmins of Oudh were good warriors and had distinguished themselves as good fighters in the service of the East.

India Company before the Mutiny. They were both very proud of their ancestors' achievements in the wars of olden times.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### The New War Loan.

On June 21st Mr. McKenna (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) moved for leave to introduce the War Loan Bill, the proposals embodied in which he outlined in a masterly speech. The resolution was adopted and the Bill was introduced and read the first time. For readers overseas the particulars of the Loan, the prospectus of which was issued on the following day, may be summarised as follows:—

#### THE TERMS SUMMARIZED.

The War Loan, the amount of which is indefinite, will carry interest at the rate of £4 10s. per cent. per annum. The issue price is £100 per cent. and a full half-year's dividend will be payable on December 1st, 1915, and every six months thereafter during the currency of the loan. Applications are receivable at the Bank of England, and must be for even hundreds of pounds. The list will close on or before Saturday, July 10th, next. £5 is payable on application, and the balance by instalments (3 of £15 and 5 of £10), the last being payable on October 20th. Payment may be made in full on or after July 20th, under discount at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. Inscribed stock will be convertible into Bonds to Bearer at any time free or *vice versa* on payment of 1s. The loan is redeemable at par on December 1st, 1945, but the Government may redeem it at par on or after December 1st, 1925, on giving six months' notice.

#### RIGHTS OF CONVERSION.

Old War Loan Stock, Consols, and 2½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. Annuities will be convertible into the new Loan.

Holders of £100 of Old War Loan Stock, which was issued at 95, will be able, on acquiring £100 of the new Loan, to get the old stock converted into new on payment of £5. Applications for conversion will not take effect until after August 3rd next.

Holders of Consols will be able on acquiring £100 of the new Loan to convert at the rate of £75 Consols for £50 of the new Loan, and so obtain a new and marketable security.

Holders of 2½ per cent. Annuities will be able on acquiring £100 of the new Loan to convert at the rate of £67 worth of the former for £50 of the new Loan.

Similarly, holders of 2½ per cent. Annuities will be able on acquiring £100 of the new Loan to convert at the rate of £78 of the former for £50 of the new War Loan.

Application for the conversion of Consols or Annuities will not take effect until after September 1st, 1915.

In each case application for conversion cannot, however, be made later than October 30th, 1915.

In the event of future issues (other than issues made abroad or issues of Exchequer Bonds, Treasury Bills, or similar short-dated Securities) being made for the purpose of carrying on the War, this War Loan Stock and Bonds will be accepted at par, plus accrued interest, as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscriptions to such issues.

Until the 2nd Nov., next, there will be two classes of 4½ per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, viz:—(1) Cum Conversion Rights and (2) Ex Conversion Rights.

(1) Will consist of Stock issued in respect of cash applications in regard to which no right of conversion has been exercised, and (2) will consist of Stock issued in respect of cash applications, in regard to which the right of conversion has been exercised, and Stock issued in lieu of Stock converted. On Nov. 2nd the two classes of Stock will be automatically amalgamated into one Stock.

#### FACILITIES FOR SMALL INVESTORS.

A novel feature of the Loan is that it may be purchased through the Post Office. On application at any Money Order Office the public can purchase for cash War Loan to the value of £5 or any multiple thereof at a discount of 8d. in each £5. The purchaser receives a receipt and eventually a stock certificate when he has been registered as a stockholder.

But this is not all. The Government is spreading its net wider and is giving an opportunity to wage earners of investing by offering for sale at Money Order Offices "Scrip Vouchers" of the value of 5s., 10s., and £1. Scrip Vouchers of the amount of £5 or any multiple of £5 will be exchangeable between 1st and 15th December, next, for a receipt, and the subscriber will then be registered as a stockholder in the usual way.

Meanwhile the purchaser of Scrip Vouchers will be entitled to interest on the amount invested at the rate of 1d. per £1 (¼d. for 5s.) for each complete month from the date of purchase of each Scrip Voucher up to 1st December, 1915, and he will receive in addition a bonus of one shilling for each £5.

### The Government's Sugar Policy.

In the House of Commons on June 15th in reply to Mr. Lough, who asked whether the Government could now see its way to permit the free import of sugar into the United Kingdom, except from enemy countries.

The Prime Minister said: I am advised that the free import of sugar in the exceptional conditions which now exist would facilitate speculation and lead to a rise in price. So far as I am aware, no section of the sugar trade or any of the allied trades desires freedom of import at the present time. If my right hon. Friend is in possession of information which differs from mine on this subject I shall be glad to hear from him and to consider the question of a discussion in this House.

In reply to a further question as to whether there was any prospect of the Report of the Sugar Commission being issued, the Prime Minister said: There is no Report.

In the debate on the third reading of the Consolidated Fund (No. 3) Bill in the House of Commons on June 23rd,

Mr. King, M.P. (North Somerset), complained that the control of the House was gradually being taken away from it. As an illustration, he referred to the Government's attitude with regard to sugar. At the beginning of the War there was a sudden and alarming rise in the price of sugar. A Royal Commission was improvised to supply the country with sugar. The Prime Minister told them that it would have such power that it would maintain an adequate supply, and he evidently anticipated that its transactions would result in a large profit for the State. He, the speaker, would not say how far that Royal Commission was a success. He believed it did very badly indeed. He believed that at least £1,000,000, and very probably over £2,000,000, must have been lost in respect of its transactions. There had been repeated requests for a Report of its proceedings, but they had had none. They had had no opportunity of discussing its action. Without any doubt it took away, at a most critical time, a large amount of our shipping; it disorganised our transit; it filled up wharves, quays, railway stations, and even thoroughfares with a large amount of sugar which was not wanted then. Altogether, he believed it had been a gigantic failure. One of the objects which the Commission had in view was to prevent sugar, of which a great amount was in Germany, from being sold, so that the money might go from this country, or neutral countries, into Germany. One of our transactions, as far as they had been able to understand, was this: We bought a very large amount of sugar from Holland and the Scandinavian countries, or sugar which would have gone to Holland and the Scandinavian countries, and those countries made up their shortage by having the German sugar at a very good price. The result was that the Germans sold their sugar, they got at least as much as they wanted for it, and we in this country paid probably a million or two million pounds over that transaction, which had gone indirectly into the German war treasury. That was an instance of the way in which Ministers had had unlimited power freely given to them by this House, and had failed to render any account whatever. The result, so far as they could judge, was that things had been mismanaged, and they had had no opportunity of criticising, warning, or preventing the repetition of the same sort of thing.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. McKenna) said that he was happy to be able to inform the Member for North Somerset that he was quite mistaken in the view which he had expressed, and when the time came he, Mr. McKenna, would be perfectly ready, as he always had been, to make a complete statement on the subject of sugar. He had always thought it his duty to advise the House in the interest of the public, that they ought not to announce the prices at which they purchased sugar. They could not make statements of that kind without disclosing facts and giving their adversaries in the market a great advantage. They had to compete in the world's markets. If the British disclosed the prices at which they hoped to buy in the market, whereas those who are buying against them or holding against them did not disclose the same facts, obviously they, the British, were at a serious disadvantage. They could only ask the indulgence of the House that they should be left to do as well as they could in the purchasing of this commodity for the benefit of the whole community. Up to the present time, so far from making a loss, they had made a substantial profit. They had got adequate stocks to ensure the country a full supply of sugar for some months to come, and they had no reason whatever to fear criticism. On the contrary, they would gladly welcome the opportunity of rendering a complete account to the House and to the public of everything they had done.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:*

- Bagnold, Colonel A. H., C.B., (served in Jamaica), Military Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Ordnance Factories.
- Barlett, Lieut. T. M., M.B., C.M., (District Medical Officer Morant Bay, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Blood, H. P., (of Trinidad), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Carter, H. S., (of Barbados), and Life Guards.
- Chamberlain, Lieut. R. H., (of Dominica), Royal Field Artillery.
- Cipriani, M., (of Trinidad), and Life Guards.
- Clarke, G. G., (son of Mr. T. M. Clarke, of Kingston, Jamaica), 27th Battalion Canadian Field Artillery.
- Clarke, T. W., (son of Mr. T. M. Clarke, of Kingston, Jamaica), Canadian Contingent.
- Clarke, Rev. Wilfred, B.A., B.D., (Jamaica Theological College), Army Chaplain and will act as Russian Interpreter.
- Clemetson, Lieut. Clifford, (son of the late Mr. David Robert Clemetson, of Frontier, St. Mary, Jamaica), Jamaica Reserve Regiment (St. Mary Division).
- Cocks, G. M., (of Grenada), Honourable Artillery Company.
- Davidson, D. Kirke, (son of Mr. Alexander Davidson, of Kingston, Jamaica), Corporal, Jamaica Reserve Regiment, has joined Kitchener's Army.
- Deane, Lieut. Frederick W., (of Barbados), Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.
- Delamere, Lieut. Dr. P. H., (late Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Duff, A. H., (of Trinidad), 16th (St. Pancras Battalion) Rifle Brigade.
- Evelyn, Stephen Jemmett, (son of Rev. Walter Evelyn, of Annotto Bay, Jamaica), Canadian Army Medical Corps.
- Farrow, Miss M., (of Barbados), Red Cross Nurse in Nyasaland.
- Fleming, 2nd Lieut. A. L., (eldest son of Mr. J. M. Fleming, of Plantation Diamond, British Guiana), 7th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
- Gaffney, 2nd Lieut. J., (of St. Vincent), Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
- George, Dr. Louis, (of Trinidad), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Grattan, Miss E. M., (of Barbados), Territorial Force Nursing Service.
- Hazard, R. P., (of Dominica), Officers' Training Corps.
- Henderson, 2nd Lieut. J. H., (of Demerara), West Riding Regiment.
- Hodge, A. S., (of Barbados), Royal Fusiliers.
- Hogg, Lieut. T. A., (of Jamaica), North Staffordshire Regiment.
- Holsted, H. W., (of Demerara), Middlesex Regiment.
- Hurrell, Squadron Sergeant-Major, (of Grenada), 1st Life Guards.
- Jones, Private Hugh Bovell, (son of the late Mr. William Bovell Jones, of Demerara), Artists Rifles.
- Lange, Pierre, (of Trinidad), King Edward's Horse.
- Lange, A., (of Trinidad), Royal Engineers.
- Lange, M., (of Trinidad), 1st King Edward's Horse.
- Lawson, John, (of Demerara), Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Lennan, Athol, (of Jamaica), Royal Fusiliers.
- Letters, Lieut. R., (late West India Regiment), 3rd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Levy, Vincent C., (son of Mr. D. A. Levy, Montego Bay, Jamaica), Corporal Jamaica Reserve Regiment has joined Kitchener's Army.

Lusk, Corporal R. J., (of Trinidad), 2nd Life Guards.

McDermott, Issett, (of Kingston, Jamaica), rejoined Kitchener's Army.

Mackenzie, Lieut. H., (late West India Regiment), 9th Battalion Scots Rifles.

MacLeod, N. H., (of Trinidad), Highland Light Infantry.

Marley, Capt. W. P., (late West India Regiment), 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment.

Martin, Captain J. K., (of Montserrat), Durham Light Infantry.

Michaels, Aubrey Vivian, (son of Mr. David Michaels, Black River, Jamaica), Sergeant, Jamaica Mounted Scouts, has joined Kitchener's Army.

Mole, Arthur H., (Jack), (son of Mr. R. R. Mole, Editor and Proprietor of the *Trinidad Mirror*), 5th Service Battalion, King's Royal Rifles.

Perez, Percy Edward James, (son of the late Dr. G. E. Perez, of Antigua), B. Company, 25th County of London Cyclist Battalion.

Perez, George Ralph, (son of the late Dr. G. E. Perez, of Antigua), No. 1 Section, G. Company, 5th Buffs, in India.

Poe, Captain J. L., (late West India Regiment), Adjutant Derbyshire Yeomanry.

Poyer, Private Julian B., (youngest son of Mr. John Poyer Poyer), 31st Battalion C.O.E.F., (Canadian Contingent).

Quick, L. H., (of Demerara), Royal Field Artillery.

Radix, Louis, (of Barbados), 15th Royal Fusiliers.

Raynor, 2nd Lieut. O. C., (of Demerara), Manchester Regiment.

Ross, James E., (of Grenada), 20th London Regiment.

Russell, James, (of Demerara), Seaforth Highlanders.

Savory, Lieut. R., (of Trinidad), South Midland Royal Engineers.

Sharp, 2nd Lieut. J., (of Trinidad), 12th Welsh Regiment.

Sharpe, Lieut. Claude, (District Medical Officer, Jamaica, son of Mr. T. H. Sharpe, St. Catherine, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Sharpe, Lieut. Clive J., (son of Mr. T. H. Sharpe, St. Catherine, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Shepherd, M., (of Antigua), 2nd Life Guards.

Sidley, William, (of Colon), Royal Field Artillery.

Silk, Dr. C. H., (of Dominica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Simpson, 2nd Lieut. Raymond, (of Antigua), Hants Regiment.

Smoker, G. D., (of Trinidad), 2nd Life Guards.

Smythe, C. St. John, (Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.

Stubbs, 2nd Lieut. Frank P., (only son of the late F. H. Stubbs, M.A., 2nd Master, Queen's College, British Guiana, and of Mrs. Wieting, British Guiana), Sherwood Foresters.

Sturgeon, Mortimer Dias, (of Kingston, Jamaica), 20th Battalion, 2nd Canadian Contingent.

Swaby, Miss D. M., (daughter of the Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Isles), V. A. D. Hospital, Folkestone, Kent.

Wilson, Private Leo, (son of the Rev. Haydock Wilson, of Demerara), 6th Battalion, City of London Rifles.

### Killed in Action.

CAPTAIN EDWARD BAVLIE AMPHLETT, who was killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula on June 4th, was the Police Magistrate and Coroner of the Eastern District of Grenada, where he was immensely popular. He returned to England last year, and obtained a commission in the 12th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment in November. At the end of the same month he was gazetted Captain and was appointed Adjutant of the Battalion. In the Dardanelles he was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, with which he was fighting when he was killed. Captain Amphlett, who was in his 38th year, was the youngest son of Mr. John Amphlett, of Clew, Worcester.

COLONEL GODFREY FACSETT, D.S.O., of the 1/2 Essex Regiment has been killed at the Dardanelles was Aide de Camp to the late Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica from 1898 to 1904.

LIEUTENANT LUCKETT, who has been killed at the front by gas was recently Sergeant Instructor of the Trinidad Light Horse. Soon after the outbreak of war he returned to England and obtained a Commission. He leaves a widow and two small children in Trinidad.

### Died of Wounds.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL NOEL LEE, V.D., 6th Battalion Manchester Infantry Brigade, who died at Malta on June 22nd, of wounds received at the Dardanelles on June 4th, was the second son of the late Sir J. C. Lee, of Derbyshire, and a partner in Tootal, Broadhurst, Lee and Co., who are largely interested in the West Indian trade and used to have a house in Kingston, Jamaica.

### Died of Sickness.

SECOND LIEUTENANT E. GEORGE SWAIN, who was recently invalided out of the Army Corps and has since died, was a brother of the Hon. Colonel G. D. Swain, Commandant of the Local Forces in Trinidad.

### Wounded and "Gassed."

Cox, Private H. B., (brother of Hon. E. F. H. Cox, barrister-at-law, and member of the Legislative Council of Jamaica for St. Andrew's), 72nd Canadian Highlanders. Was wounded at Ypres during the gallant charge of the Canadians after the British line had been broken through the gas poison attack.

Haynes, 2nd Lieut. C. Graham, (of Trinidad), King's Royal Rifles. Has been severely wounded.

Jascelles, 2nd Lieut. H. G. C., Viscount, (son of the Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O., President of the West India Committee), 1st Grenadier Guards, has, we regret to learn, been wounded in Flanders.

Tinne, 2nd Lieut. C. R., (son of Mr. J. B. Tinne, of Liverpool), Royal Field Artillery. Is suffering from gas poisoning.

de Verteuil, Maurice, (son of the Hon. Carl de Verteuil, of Trinidad). Has been wounded at the front.

### Mentioned in Despatches.

CAPTAIN FRANK P. NOSWORTHY, of the Royal Engineers, (20th Company, 3rd Sappers and Miners), has been decorated with the Military Cross for conspicuous ability and gallantry, especially at Neuve Chapelle, from 10th to 12th March, 1915, when he showed marked coolness and initiative under heavy close-range fire whilst constructing barricades. Captain Nosworthy is a son of Mr. R. Nosworthy, Supervisor of Revenue in Jamaica.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Malone, Dr. Reginald H., (son of Mr. W. W. Malone, of Antigua), Surgeon-Captain, No. 3, General Hospital (McGill), Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Malone, Fred H., (son of Mr. W. W. Malone, of Antigua), 6th Field Ambulance Corps, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

### BAHAMAS AND THE WAR.

Brown, Harold, (son of the Hon. Sir Joseph Brown, President of the Legislative Council of the Bahamas), Princess Patricia's Light Infantry. *At the front.*

Haddon-Smith, Captain Herbert Basil, (younger son of Sir George Haddon-Smith, late Governor of the Bahamas), Army Service Corps attached to 26th Divisional Train.



Higgs, Stanley, (son of the late Mr. S. J. Higgs, and grandson of Sir Joseph Brown, of the Bahamas), Canadian Contingent.

Holden, Lieut. W. C., (of the Bahamas), 3rd Siege Battery, 2nd Corps, 7th Division, Royal Garrison Artillery. *At the front.*

Moseley, 2nd Lieut. Oswald, H. G. K., A.M.I.C.E., (elder son of Mr. C. H. Harley Moseley, C.M.G., of the Bahamas), Army Service Corps, (Mechanical Transport Department).

Page, Fred, (son of Rev. W. S. Page, of the Bahamas), Regiment not known. *At the front.*

#### Killed in Action.

Bailey, Lance Corporal Alexander, (elder son of the late Rev. R. T. Bailey, M.A., Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Nassau, Bahamas), Princess Patricia's Light Infantry.

#### Died of Wounds.

Sears, Corporal Roy R., (of the Bahamas), Princess Patricia's Light Infantry. Died of wounds on April 5th.

#### Died of Sickness.

Knowles, John Wesley, (son of Mr. J. J. Watson Knowles, of Eleuthera, Bahamas), Yorkshire Regiment. Died of spotted fever in February.

#### Prisoner of War.

Moseley, Captain Reginald A. D., (younger son of Mr. C. H. Harley Moseley, C.M.G., of the Bahamas), 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers. Taken prisoner at Mons, now at Mainz, Germany.

[Copies of the last fifteen WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS containing in all 1,102 names are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, price 1s. each, or post free 1s. 1d.]

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada, which has taken several copies of the West India Committee Map of the West Indies, writes that "it is excellent and most useful." Mr. F. Bonham Smith, I.S.O., Provost Marshal of Barbados, characterises it as the best map of the kind he has ever seen.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

The "Cane Sugar Factory" is a manual which is enjoying much popularity on sugar estates in every part of the world. To overseers learning their work it is quite invaluable. The author of the book, which is neatly bound in cloth, is Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., and its cost is 1s., or post free 1s. 2d.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE area in the United States planted under cotton for the coming season is 35,190,000 acres as compared with 39,478,000 last season, a decrease of 4,288,000 acres or 10.86 per cent.

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ACCORDING to our contemporary the *Maritime Merchant* Texan "Bermuda Onions" are now being imported into Halifax, N.S., the supply of the genuine product of the Somers Islands being exhausted.

\* \* \*

AMONG the recent recipients of the Royal Red Cross decoration is Miss L. O. Peet, of Derby. Miss Peet is the daughter of Mr. J. Peet, the well-known West Indian sugar engineer, now attached to Messrs. G. Fletcher and Co., Ltd., of Derby.

\* \* \*

MISS MAY SINCLAIR BRUCE, who died on June 20th at Bath, at the advanced age of 91 years, was sister of the late Lord Aberdare—author of the Bruce Licensing Act—and the last surviving daughter of the late Mr. John Bruce-Pryce, of Duffryn, Glamorganshire, by Sarah, second daughter of the Rev. Hugh Williams Austin, Rector of St. Peter's, Barbados.

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AN "old refiner," writing to the *Louisiana Planter*, has not much to say in favour of his race. "Refiners," he says, "are a secretive class. By education they give no public advice. They enjoy the exclusiveness of a business traditionally buried in mystery. The worse the raw sugars the lower the price and the greater the opportunity to enhance the value by refinery."

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THE Select Committee of the Legislature of Trinidad have reported against the draft Private Bill to incorporate the Cacao Planters' Association of Trinidad. Mr. Edward Agostini, K.C., and Mr. Kerr attended in the interests of the promoters of the Bill, which was, however, opposed by Mr. S. A. Wharton, K.C., on behalf of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and also Mr. W. Gordon Gordon and Mr. Albert Cipriani.

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THE Government of the Bahamas is now defacing—we use the verb in its official sense—the colony's stamps on letters with a postmark reading

COME TO  
NASSAU, BAHAMAS  
IDEAL TOURIST RESORT

An invitation which we would give much to be able to accept.

CANADIAN oats have hitherto borne the highest reputation in West Indian markets, and it would be a pity if this were to be lost through the action of certain unscrupulous exporters who, according to a report made by Mr. Edgar Tripp, have been adulterating oats with products of an inferior quality, generally low grade barley. The importers were in this case Government contractors, and the Canadian oats had to be replaced by oats from New York.

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THAT well-known Japanese steamship line the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has decided to inaugurate a new steamer service from New York to Vladivostock, Kobe and Yokohama via the Panama Canal. The first sailing will be by the *Toyohashi Maru*, one of six sister ships of 12 knots speed and carrying 10,500 tons deadweight. They will not carry passengers, and, as readers of the CIRCULAR will learn with regret, will not touch at any West Indian ports.

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A drawing room meeting in aid of the Jamaica Church Aid Association is to be held on Monday, July 5th, at Cam House, Campden Hill, W., the residence of Lady Phillimore, who has kindly lent it for the occasion. The chair will be taken at 5 p.m. by Admiral Sir Nathaniel Bowden-Smith, K.C.B., and the speakers will include the Bishop of British Honduras and the Rev. J. J. Whitehouse, formerly Warden of the Theological College at Kingston, Jamaica.

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Two new industries have recently been started in Grand Turk, those of lobster canning and turtle rearing. The former is being developed by Mr. Silly, an Englishman, and the value of the exports of tinned lobsters has already nearly reached four figures. Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, is also endeavouring to revive the cotton industry among the small proprietors on the lines which proved so successful in Carriacou.

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MRS. ROBERT WILSON wishes to dispose of one gold and one silver Trinidad Centenary Medal, in aid of the War Relief Fund, and will be glad to receive offers. These medals were struck in 1897 to commemorate the Centenary of the capture of the island from Spain by Sir Ralph Abercromby in 1797. On the obverse is the portrait of Sir Ralph Abercromby and on the reverse a badge of the Colony and the inscription "To commemorate the Centenary of the Conquest of Trinidad by the British, 1797." Mrs. Robert Wilson's address is Golspie Tower, Greenbank Crescent, Edinburgh.

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THE present congestion at Jamaica owing to the absence of shipping facilities will be in some measure relieved through the action of Messrs. Thomson, Hankey and Co. On June 10th the West India Committee were able to request the Colonial

Office to advise the Governor that that firm had arranged with Messrs. Scrutton, Sons and Co., to send the S.S. *Tennyson* to Jamaica. The vessel, which has a capacity of over 2,600 tons dead weight cargo left Liverpool a fortnight ago, and should arrive in Jamaica about the 10th July. She will load at Savannah-La-Mar and Falmouth.

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THE Macartney Manuscripts to be offered for sale at Sotheby's on July 8th, include among other interesting papers the terms of the capitulation of Grenada and Tobago between the Count D'Estaing and Lord Macartney; a list of the French sea and land forces at Grenada, July 2, 1779; and an Address to Lord Macartney from the principal inhabitants of Grenada on his leaving, with numerous signatures. Other Papers relate to the reduction of St. Lucia, and include returns of troops in the garrisons. Here is an opportunity for some benefactor to enrich the Library of the West India Committee!

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It is expected that the immense coaling stations which are being equipped by the United States Government at Balboa and Cristobal—at either end of the Panama Canal—will be completed by the end of this year. The larger plant, says *Dun's Review*, is at Cristobal, on the Atlantic side. It consists of a steel and concrete basin 1,000 feet long and 250 feet wide, with a storage capacity of about 290,000 tons. The Balboa plant, at the Pacific end, is 500 feet in length, and will hold approximately 160,000 tons. This gives a rated capacity of 450,000 tons, but this could doubtless be increased to 500,000 if the facilities now in use were continued.

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SIR MARCUS SAMUEL, at the Annual General Meeting of the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company on June 23rd, said that their ardent desire to develop production of petroleum in the British Empire had not met with conspicuous success last year. After a very considerable expenditure they had abandoned hope of obtaining production in New Zealand. In Egypt the production for 1914 showed an increase of 90,000 tons as compared with 1913, but this production was obtained by "gushers," which gave out quickly. It was a baffling territory, and, frankly, they were worried as to its success. In the West Indies their operations had not yet given any conclusive results.

The new edition of "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies" is obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies, varnished and mounted on rollers, post free in U.K. 8s. 4d., or to the West Indies 9s. 1d.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE nation is being led into fresh fields and pastures new. It is now a case of each one not merely "doing his bit," but of giving his bit. The War Loan announced by Mr. McKenna has secured the popularity of the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, not only by reason of the attractiveness of its terms but also by its financial soundness. Hitherto, gilt-edged securities have been the luxury of the few. The working man and the investor of limited means have been excluded. It is hoped that a loan which permits of universal participation will receive universal response, but some time must necessarily elapse before the results of the experiment are known.

THE Chancellor has so drafted his scheme that your 4½ per cent. interest may be represented in pounds or farthings. Furthermore you have the assurance that in subscribing to the loan you are not merely doing a patriotic thing, but making a sound investment for yourself at a time when such opportunities are few. The depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank will no doubt readily avail themselves of the opportunity to exchange 2½ per cent for 4½ per cent. interest. At the same time he would perhaps be rendering a more disinterested service to the State by leaving his deposit undisturbed, and accepting a smaller return on his money.

THIS feeling of "all hands to the pump" has been further stimulated by the campaign of the Minister of Munitions. As a nation we have the reputation of not being quickly aroused. Every man and woman, however, is now keenly alive to the importance of shells—and shells in their millions—for our men at the front. There is good reason to expect that every vacancy for workers, male and female, at the factories, will be promptly and eagerly filled. Following the example of the ants, probably the most highly organised communities on earth, the Government is at last organising the nation on proper lines, and if the deeds are only approximate to the words, results must follow.

IT is a personal triumph for Mr. Lloyd George that he has been able to arrange with the men's leaders an agreement which for the time being at any rate, violates some of the most cherished traditions of trade unionism. An assured freedom from strikes is one of the compensations of the war. In this connection national service is being rendered by Mr. Ben Tillett. Fresh from a tour of the trenches this famous agitator is employing his eloquence and his influence for the stimulus of our artisans. At the present moment unity is reaching what is hoped to be the high-water mark.

THE presence of 50,000 spectators at his funeral emphasised the popular grief at the tragic fate of Flight-Lieutenant Warneford. His "crowded hour" endured but for ten days. His death in an accident so soon after his single-handed destruction of a Zeppelin has touched the heart of the nation very deeply. The King's immediate bestowal of the Victoria Cross now acquires an enhanced graciousness. Had the precedent of the Mutiny and Crimean campaigns been followed, the hero would have died unhonoured.

THE West Indies were represented on "Alexandra Day," June 23rd, when London was embowered in roses. The "Day" has probably never been observed more enthusiastically by residents in the Metropolis. The ladies who besieged pedestrians from morning till evening found no difficulty in disposing of their wares. On the contrary there was a marked readiness to purchase the national emblem. A heavy shower at mid-day failed to damp the spirits of the sellers, who collected no less than £26,019, or £5,000 more than last year, for the hospitals.

THE latest corps for the new Army consists of "Kitchener's Birthday Recruits." The 65th name day of the great Field Marshal occasioned fresh tributes of admiration, and provided a further stimulus to recruiting. The men joining on that day were proud to march through the streets bearing a badge indicative of the fact. Censorship is as strict as ever, but Ministers have admitted that the figures show that our military strength now approaches the total numbers so far voted by Parliament.

IN other times the centenary of Waterloo would have been celebrated with due regard to the greatness of the occasion, and to the feelings of our friends and allies the French. Owing to the war, however, the date would have passed unnoticed but for Press comment. The war, moreover, has had the effect of obscuring some of the greatness of June 18, 1815. In the light of the battles of to-day, the contest between Wellington and Napoleon seems a much smaller affair than it did to our fathers. For West Indians Waterloo will always be associated with the great names of Picton and Combermere.

SYMPATHY will be extended to our President, Lord Harewood, on the news that his son and heir, Lord Lascelles has been wounded at the front. It will be remembered that at the Keighley bye-election in November, 1913, Lord Lascelles was the unsuccessful Unionist opponent of the present Lord Chancellor, now Lord Buckmaster.

A list of publications to be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms will be forwarded post free upon request.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

ACCORDING to the *India Rubber World* a Russian chemist has recently been able to secure from the crude petroleum of the Baku Oilfields a yield of 20 per cent. of adipic acid, this material being derived from certain fractions boiling between 208 and 223 degrees Fahrenheit. Adipic acid is convertible, through its amide, into butadiene. The latter can easily be converted into caoutchouc, and the discovery of an abundant supply of adipic acid is thus a matter of great importance in the manufacture of synthetic rubber.

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The same organ refers to the important subject of the "tackiness" of rubber, the loss of elasticity and nerve, and mentions that Messrs. Heim and Marquis state that the turning of crude rubber into a pitchy, tacky mass is due to the absorption by the rubber of the oxygen of the air, the absorption being favoured by a rise in temperature. A small quantity of oxygen is sufficient to decompose a large quantity of rubber, and smoking the rubber preserves it from tackiness by covering it with a coating which preserves it from air.

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The Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago gives some interesting figures regarding the composition of the milk from the various breeds of cows on the Government farms of that colony. The best milk, both as regards total solids and fat content was given by half-bred Zebus. The best analysis of the milk from these showed 14.73 per cent. of solids with 5.20 per cent. of fats. The half-bred Red Polls came next with 14.04 per cent. of solids and 4.70 per cent. of fat, followed by the half-bred Shorthorns with 13.80 per cent. of solids, and the half-bred Guernseys with 13.02 per cent. The half-bred Holsteins were last on the list, but in this instance only one analysis of the milk was obtained.

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Some experiments have recently been conducted at the Swedish Moor Experiment Station on the subject of soil inoculation. The results of the experiments, which included the inoculation of the soil with inoculated earth, Kuhn's Nitrogen, Simon's Azotogen, and Bary-Thomas's American Farmogerm, are given in the monthly *Bulletin*. The plants grown were yellow lupinus, and the seeds were carefully sterilized before planting. The plots were manured with lime, superphosphates and potash at the rates of 4,460 lbs., 357 lbs. and 357 lbs. per acre respectively. The non-inoculated plots gave 347 grammes, that inoculated with inoculated soil 541 grammes, that with nitrogen 583 grammes, and that with Azotogen 601 grammes. Farmogerm gave the least results.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Tagus* which should have arrived on June 14th, did not reach Tilbury until the 16th and it was not therefore possible to give in last CIRCULAR the usual extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents. We now, however, publish them below for though the news given must necessarily be ancient by the time the CIRCULAR reaches the West Indies, the letters contain much interesting matter.

#### BARBADOS—Changes in the House of Assembly.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., JUNE 1st.—The House of Assembly held its last meeting of the session on May 21st and writs have been issued for the election of a new House returnable on June 15th. Mr. F. A. C. Collymore and Mr. J. Baeza have announced their intention of not seeking re-election. With these exceptions the composition of the new House is likely to remain as at present. Recruits for active service are now to be accepted from this island, provided 100 or more offer, and the Legislature is to be asked to vote a sum of money to pay for their passage, etc. [£2,500 has since been voted.] Conditions have been rather better for reaping, but the quality of the juice is bad and megass is scarce which hampers sugar-making except at the factories. The *Advocate* states that Dr. Briggs Clarke, Medical Officer of St. John, has been requisitioned for St. Andrew and that Mr. J. Edwin Crouney has offered himself for Mr. Baeza's seat.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—Mr. G. R. Garnett in the Council.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MAY 29th.—Mr. C. F. Wieting has resigned his seat as member for Georgetown, and Mr. N. Cannon and Mr. G. R. Garnett have been requisitioned to fill the vacancy. Mr. Garnett has been appointed a member of the Executive Council. News of the death of Mr. T. Gordon Davson has been received with very general regret. The Governor has issued a minute to the Legislature regarding the proposal to send a contingent of 100 men, since increased to 240 men, to the front.

#### DOMINICA—Praise for the "Circular's" War Articles.

MR. E. A. AGAR, MAY 28th.—The articles in the CIRCULAR on "The Progress of the War" are quite the best of their kind that I have seen, the mass of detail that renders other diaries so difficult to follow being omitted. The daily cables help us little, except in the rare cases when some startling event occurs, and it is a great thing to have our scattered information properly classified. The death of Captain A. F. Anderson is deeply regretted by all his friends, who include all who knew him. His invariable cheerfulness must have made him a most valuable officer in the trying conditions that obtain at the front. Dominica has too many men serving to be likely to escape with one loss. The weather has been fine on the whole, the young lime fruit is coming on well, but the crop will be late. The cacao crop is setting well but this receives less and less attention every year; the island is so much better adapted to limes that however useful it may be to have cacao as a second string, hardly any is being planted now.

#### GRENADA—The Local Assistance Funds.

On May 15th, the local National Relief Fund amounted to £1,250 6s. 9d., and the Red Cross Fund to £437 15s. 10d. Mrs. Eleanor Turnbull, of the old Glasgow family of Turnbull, died in St. George's on May 15th.

**NEVIS—A Good "Ad" for the Bath House.**

MR. E. WILLIAMS, MAY 27th.—The area under Sea Island cotton for the present season has been reduced to about 400 acres as compared with 2,000 last year. Dr. Watts gave a very lucid address to the planters on May 14th dealing mainly with the cotton market. His Honour T. Lawrence Roxburgh, C.M.G., has paid his farewell address to this part of the Presidency, and as he has been a most popular Administrator, genuine regret is felt at his departure. The Federal Council met at Antigua on April 12th, but owing to the lack of shipping facilities no unofficial member of this Presidency could attend on the date fixed. As, however, the official members had been in Dominica they had no difficulty in reaching Antigua in time. A cable was sent to the Acting Administrator asking that the session might be delayed for three days to enable unofficial members to take passage, by the Canadian steamer, but the Governor did not consent. If my information is correct that measures have passed the Council that were rejected in a former full Council, it is a very fine point whether the Acts will bear the light of appeal. The Bath House has received a splendid advertisement through a mishap to the S.S. *Byron* of the Lamport and Holt Line, which struck a rock off the South Point of this island, and came into port leaking badly. Her forty first-class passengers were sent to the Bath House where they remained for some days. They were agreeably surprised to find such a luxurious hotel in the island. The ship landed about 6,000 tons of cargo, but a relief vessel having come down from Jamaica and patched her up her cargo was put back and, after a stay of sixteen days, she was able to proceed to New York.

**ST. KITTS—Mr. T. L. Roxburgh's Departure.**

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, MAY 27th.—The weather is seasonable with occasional light showers, and the cane crops are disappearing rapidly. Planters are glad to learn that the entire crop of the Central Factory has been sold at a good figure, so that notwithstanding short crops contractors are hopeful of obtaining a bonus for canes from profits this season. A large and representative meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on Tuesday the 18th inst., at which His Honour the Administrator presided, to meet Dr. F. Watts, C.M.G., the Commissioner of Agriculture. A resolution was passed expressing regret at the death of the late Mr. G. B. Duncan, manager of the Central Factory, and sending a letter of condolence to his widow. A letter was read from the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce re the adoption of the polariscope test of sugar in place of the Dutch standard for sugars entering the Dominion of Canada from these colonies. After some discussion a resolution was passed in favour of the adoption of the polariscope test. Dr. Watts then gave a long and very interesting address. After some introductory remarks, he touched on the cotton industry, and that it is entirely due to the action of the British Cotton Growing Association that a minimum price of 1s. 6d. per lb. has been guaranteed for cotton coming up to the standard of the best St. Kitts and St. Vincent cotton and 1s. 2d. per lb. for lower standard grades. He assured the meeting of a healthy demand for Sea Island cotton in the future; and he emphasized the need of continued very careful seed selection so that St. Kitts may continue to produce cotton of a very high type. In connection with the sugar industry he pointed out that many planters had a new factor to deal with nowadays in returns of cane per acre, namely the factory weighbridge, and he advocated liberal pen manuring and that more attention be given to the growing of leguminous crops for green dressings. He advised that some attention be given to the planting of maize. At the present time the large importa-

tions of corn to these islands came from Argentine via New York, and planters might with advantage grow sufficient for their own use. Onion-growing, the cultivation of lime beans and coco-nut planting were also referred to. He was also of opinion that pig-raising as an industry might be considered in these islands. With reference to the northern sugar growing district of St. Kitts, Dr. Watts was of the opinion that the best form of relief would be the erection of another Central Sugar Factory, but this would need about £90,000, a sum difficult to raise in these days. A more feasible idea might be to raise a loan through the Government to lay down a railway line connecting with the present factory lines, and make terms with the present factory as to taking in the larger area. This might cost about £40,000. It was a matter for local opinion to decide. The capital charges on the present factory are very heavy, and a much larger output is necessary to ensure profitable working. His Honour the Administrator said he was of the opinion that the Government would do all in its power to assist in the matter. After a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Watts, at the close of the meeting, the writer proposed a resolution placing on record the Society's appreciation of the great interest shown by His Hon. the Administrator in the Society and its doings during the term of office in the Presidency, and wishing him many years of well-earned leisure in Jamaica. This was seconded by Mr. A. S. Davis and passed unanimously. His Honour thanked the movers and the Society in a few appropriate remarks.

After eight years residence here, during which time he had earned the liking and respect of all classes of the community, His Honour T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G., left the Presidency per S.S. *Parima* on the 22nd inst. for Jamaica via New York. Captain A. Rogers, I.S.O., has assumed the duties of Administrator pro tem. His Excellency T. A. Best, Acting Governor, with his Private Secretary, arrived by the S.S. *Chaudiere* on the 23rd inst. Mr. G. O. Walton, Magistrate of District C since 1911 and acting second Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, is leaving by this mail to take up the Attorney Generalship of St. Lucia. Mr. and Mrs. Walton have made many friends here and their departure is generally regretted. Mr. W. Wigley arrived from Dominica by the mail and very fittingly succeeds Mr. Walton, taking the office long held by his father, the late F. Spencer Wigley, I.S.O., whom I knew as a fine old gentleman much beloved and respected by all classes.

**ST. LUCIA—Arrival of the New Administrator.**

The Hon. Gideon Murray arrived on Thursday, May 21st, to take up the position of Administrator in the Island. He was duly sworn in at the Court House. The Chief Justice welcoming him said that the island was a progressive one. He referred to the fact that the Chief Justice in the middle of the last century received £2,000 a year, as evidence of its prosperity at that time, he hoped that His Honour would revive that happy state of affairs.

**ST. VINCENT—Dr. Hovey's Visit to the Soufriere.**

MR. W. N. SANDS, MAY 29th.—His Hon. the Hon. Gideon Murray left for St. Lucia on the 20th inst. The last two issues of *The Sentry* contain full accounts of the numerous addresses, etc., which were presented to him in connection with his departure from the colony. Dr. E. O. Hovey's report on the present condition of the Soufriere will be found in the issue of *The Sentry* of 28th inst. From this we gather that Dr. Hovey says that the volcano seems absolutely quiet and as safe as it was for ninety years prior to 1902. An interesting fact noted was that the surface of the crater lake appears to be at a higher level than it was before the last eruption. From personal observation I estimate that the lake has risen from 150 to 200 ft. since 1907.

His Hon. Anthony De Freitas—Chief Justice—was due to arrive from St. Lucia to-morrow morning. He will act as Administrator until the arrival of Mr. Popham Lobb.

#### TOBAGO—The Romance of the late Herr Dollinger.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, MAY 28th.—Last Monday was celebrated in schools all over the island as "Empire Day" and addresses were delivered about the greatness and responsibility of our Empire, especially in these days of war. The celebrations in this out of the world corner were naturally crude, but most enthusiastic. The Union Jack, upside down on its bamboo flagstaff, gave the local speaker a good opportunity of reminding the boys and girls that the Empire was in distress and of the need and opportunity for every one to rally to its rescue. Since last mail showery weather has continued and thunder, occasionally, indicates that the rainy season has actually set in. The cacao flowers are setting well and with a continuance of this favourable weather an abundant crop may be expected at the end of the year. The natives are busy planting ground provisions which will make them less dependent on "shop goods," the prices of which have already largely curtailed the demand, much to the sorrow of the wayside shopkeepers. Work is plentiful and the natives have much need to be thankful for the freedom and safety afforded them by the fleet. The casualty list has brought sorrow to several families even in this out of the way corner of the Empire, and the mails are looked forward to with anxiety here as elsewhere. We were all pleased to hear that Mr. Cummings had secured a commission in the Seaforth Highlanders, and feel sure he will make a gallant officer. As anticipated the Governor has commuted the sentence of death on the woman murderer to imprisonment for life and it is hoped that the island may be long free of such a serious charge. There is the usual crop of petty thefts in spite of the more drastic sentences now being given by our magistrate. It is said that men send women and children to steal to escape flogging and the Governor will no doubt bear this in mind when a male thief is up for punishment. Robert Herald the man in charge of Sir William Ingram's Birds of Paradise on "Little Tobago" is dead. He always said he was from Switzerland, but a few days before his death he confessed that his real name was Dollinger and that he was a German although his mother was from Switzerland. He was afraid that his papers might be called for. Being from South Germany, he hated the Prussians and their military system, and frequently abused them since the war commenced. He was a most interesting and well educated man and something of an artist as well as fond of "stringing rhymes." He was a typical old sailor man and his yarns never failed to produce a bit of tobacco or a gram of Tobago is genuinely sorry to lose this old Robinson Crusoe and we are all willing to forget that he was a German.

#### TRINIDAD—The Local Chambers and the Coalition.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JUNE 2nd.—The news of the formation of the Coalition Ministry, and especially the appointment of Mr. Honor Law as Colonial Secretary, is very welcome here. The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce voicing, I am sure, the opinion of the members, and the community, at once telegraphed an expression of their gratification, and have followed it by a letter to-day. It is also good to find that Mr. Austen Chamberlain fills so important a post in the Colonies. I understated the amount of net proceeds of the "Old English Fayre" at San Fernando. The accounts show the result to have been the handsome sum of \$4,037.94.

The session of the Legislative Council is officially over,

but much remains undone that should have been done, and perhaps some done that were better undone, so that special sittings will no doubt be called at an early date. That terrible Public Health Ordinance drags on its weary way. It has led to more acrimonious discussion than any I remember, and the general belief is that when, if ever, the Ordinance becomes law there will be no funds to work it. Altogether a most unsatisfactory session, which will be remembered more for the wrangling over small matters which has regularly taken place than for anything else. One cannot help thinking, with all deference to my good friend and that most courteous and able man, the present senior unofficial, that the unofficial side misses more than it knows the absence of the "Old Parliamentary Hand" who led them so carefully for so many years. But in this case the Pilot was not dropped—he left of his own accord.

Empire Day, May 24th, a public holiday, was favoured with beautiful weather, and made the most of. Thousands of holiday makers flocked to the islands and country, or from country to town. The Childrens' Celebration held on the Savannah in the morning was really a splendid spectacle. About 5,000 took part, and all had been wonderfully drilled for the occasion. Cadet Corps, Boys' Brigades, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and the pupils of the City Schools were all there, carrying thousands of flags which were dipped at the saluting base, where were the Governor and Staff. Mr. H. H. Hancock, Acting Inspector of Schools, was primarily responsible, but he received invaluable aid from that inveterate public worker, Captain Randolph Rust, who threw his whole heart into it, and succeeded in a manner that won the warmest praise from His Excellency, who delivered a most eloquent patriotic address.

In the afternoon the annual athletic sports, which are held under the auspices of the Queen's Park Cricket Club, came off again successfully. The enclosure was crowded, and much interest evinced in all the events, especially the cycle races in which three competitors from Demerara competed. One of them, Wm. Brown, pulled off the mile race, and our old friend Sam Davis managed to secure the five mile event, but the majority of prizes went to Trinidad. Mikey Cipriani was not forgotten; he had won twice out of the three times necessary before becoming owner, the splendid Challenge Cup offered by the Birmingham Small Arms Co., in the nine mile race. But he is in a bigger competition now in France, and we all know will do himself and country credit there as he as always done before where pluck and skill availed.

The obituary includes Mr. Alexander Robert Gray (father of Mrs. R. Gervase Bushe and Mrs. Harry F. Smith), on Saturday, May 30, and Mrs. Ada Emily Wood, widow of the late Captain Samuel Dickenson Wood, formerly of the Royal Scots Regiment, and at the time of his death Staff Officer of the Trinidad Local Defence Force.

#### THE CACAO MARKET.

As anticipated the receipts of cacao for May have been heavier than was expected a short time before, although falling far short of those of 1914, when the quantity was 8,423,804 lbs. The demand on the other hand has fallen off considerably and the market has been weak with a downward tendency, having an adverse effect upon a group of certain proprietors and dealers who had formed a local "ring" to hold up prices, eventually being compelled to accept less than originally offered. This is the first instance of the kind noted and the result will not prove encouraging to the promoters. To-day there are but few buyers, and holders are anxious to dispose of their produce at from \$13.75 to \$14.10 per fanega, according to quality. The

weather has been drier, and this coming after the heavy rains, has been favourable to cultivation. The landings from Venezuela have been light, realising practically the same prices as Trinidad's.

Shipments of Trinidad cacao during May have been as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs
United Kingdom	1,226,057
B. N. America	137,000
France	710,900
Australia	5,880
United States America	2,153,317
Total for May	4,240,031
Shipped previously	30,704,080
Total from 1st January	34,944,111
To same date, 1914	19,708,180
" " 1913	33,535,159
" " 1912	33,100,344
" " 1911	29,885,549
" " 1910	32,507,935
" " 1909	29,618,547
" " 1908	26,642,905

The West Indian mail service is becoming more and more irregular. The R.M.S. *Panama*, which was due at Liverpool on June 20th, was late in leaving Barbados and is not now expected to arrive before July 1st or 2nd.

#### MARRIAGE.

**Haynes-Hansom.**—At All Saints Church, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on June 2nd, by the Venerable Archdeacon Hombersley, Frank Haynes, eldest son of the late Mr. John Haynes, and of Mrs. Haynes, of Trinidad, to Madge, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hansom, of England.

#### DEATH.

**Giuseppi.**—On the 22nd June at Bullingham Mansions, Kensington, Adela Giuseppi, widow of the late Eugene Giuseppi, of Trinidad, B.W.I. West Indian papers please copy.

#### WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller) June 15th, "Heavy rains generally throughout the island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.) June 26th, "Weather favourable." **Berbice** (Messrs. H. K. Davson and Co.) June 21st, "Weather is very much in our favour." (The Demerara Co., Ltd.) June 26th, "Weather favourable."

During the year to date 45 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	6	Bahamas	1
Barbados	6	British Honduras	1
British Guiana	5	Grenada	2
Tobago	5	Nevis	1
Jamaica	2	London	9
St. Kitts	2	Country	4
Antigua	1		

### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dis- cend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices June 11
4 %	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2 %	Barbados 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-47	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1915	94
3 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-43	94 1/2
4 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1914	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-45	85 1/2
3 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	94
3 %	Trinidad 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
	The Colonial Bank	52
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	74 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	91 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	99
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	87 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	147
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	103 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref	77-81
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	6 1/2
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	17 1/2
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref	103
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	99
7 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	23 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. 1st Pref	101
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd "	101
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	99 1/2

#### The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The production for the week ended Wednesday, June 23rd, was 646 tons.

### THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Commander W. C. Barrett), Tilbury, London, June 16th:—

Mr. L. F. Nourse	Mr. G. Garraway	Mrs. J. S. Price
Mr. E. A. Robinson	Dr. J. V. Grant	Miss Price
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Short	Mr. F. W. Hutson	Mr. & Mrs. Pinder
Miss Bowen	Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Hutson	Mr. H. B. Sadler
Misses Boissiere (3)	Dr. Hall	Mr. and Mrs. W. Skinn
Mrs. A. Cameron	Miss M. Laurie	Mr. and Mrs. C. Shep-
Miss E. M. Cameron	Mr. A. F. Lee	herd
Mr. G. M. Cochrane	Mr. A. Mercier	Miss B. Shepherd
Mr. W. A. Dixon	Mr. J. Mawson	Mrs. E. G. Samuels
Dr. & Mrs. Deane	Mr. & Mrs. de la Nothe	Mr. L. R. Watts
Dr. Eakin	Miss Martin	Mr. H. W. Turner
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Fleming	Miss A. P. Marryatt	Miss Williams
	Mrs. F. Muir	

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, June 30th:—

Mr. F. A. Goddard	Dr. R. P. Weldon	Mrs. H. B. Showers
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Parnell	Mr. S. Minton	Mrs. Plean
Mr. C. H. Clarke	Mr. & Mrs. W. E. T.	Misses Plean (2)
Mrs. E. Norris	Sidnell	Mr. L. R. Watts
Mrs. S. C. Thorne	Mrs. M. E. Reed	Mr. R. H. Bunbury

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Mexico*, July 15th:—

Mr. N. H. Brewster, L.R.C.P., Mrs. C. M. Dalziel

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. K. Agar  
H. E. Sir H. Hesketh  
Bell, K.C.M.G.  
Mr. A. Campbell  
Mr. J. W. Cathcart  
Mr. Cecil H. Chambers  
Mr. F. J. Evans  
Mr. W. M. Fletcher  
Mr. J. M. Fleming  
Mr. G. Graf  
Mr. John T. Great  
Mr. A. H. Haygart  
Mr. A. T. Hammond  
His Honour Leslie  
Jarvis  
Mr. A. S. Kennahan  
Mr. A. E. Perkins  
Mr. W. C. Robertson  
Mr. W. F. Sainnells  
Mr. C. W. Scott  
Mr. K. B. Short  
Mr. W. Smith  
Hon. F. H. Watkins  
I.S.O.  
and  
Mr. H. Graham Year-wood  
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
Lieut-Col J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farabairn, Surrey.  
Hon. J. Freeland Pointe, Thornton House, Wisborough Green, Sussex.  
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
Mr. H. C. Morcom, Great Meols, Cheshire.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE**, continues at 5 per cent. as from the 8th August last. Consols are quoted at 65 and the old War Loan at 93½. The new War Loan, while it places the holders of Consols, the first War Loan and the 2½ and 2½ per cent. annuities in a favourable position, must necessarily lead to a depreciation in the value of Colonial Government securities. Indeed all values have been marked down on the Stock Exchange in consequence of the generous terms now offered by the Government to investors. The reception of the new Loan by the public and the Press has been most enthusiastic, and after the turn of the half-year applications are likely to be made on an extensive scale.

**SUGAR**—There has been very little to chronicle in connection with the sugar market during the last fortnight. The Cuban crop drags on, and the reduction of the number of factories working points to the tail end of reaping. Last week there were 23 working as compared with 16 at the same time last year, but the receipts are rapidly dwindling and the heavy rains reported should still further diminish them. Although the crop is only 70,000 tons behind the corresponding last year's figures, it is on the cards that weather conditions will prevent the full 2,600,000 tons of the estimate being reached. In fact Guma estimates the crop as 2,500,000 tons.

The British Government having come to the end of their Plantation White sugars have had again to go into the market for American granulated to take their place until the new crop Javas can arrive in the United Kingdom. In this connection it is reported that sales of granulated for France have been made in New York at \$4.65 f.o.b. The further purchase of 25,000 tons Cuban 96's at \$3.85 f.o.b. is also reported, a higher price than the \$3.70 recently obtained in Demerara for the same class of sugar for the Canadian market. This difference is really greater than the figures appear to show, as the Cuban U.S.A. preference is only 25 cents per 100 lbs. as against the Canadian 35 cents. A purchase of 6,000 tons of 96° Mozambique sugar has also been made by the Government for July delivery. Accordingly to Messrs. Guma and Meyer and Mr. Himely, 200,000 tons of the present Cuban crop had been shipped to Europe up to the 1st of June, practically the whole of which was to Great Britain.

In reply, in the House of Commons, to Mr. King, the member for North Somerset, Mr. McKenna stated that, as everybody connected with the trade has realised, the Government had made large profits out of its sugar dealings, and further that it was provided with sugar for some months to come.

Mauritius crystals dyed in London continue to appear in the sale catalogue of a well-known firm of wholesale grocers. The value of these crystals in their undefiled state is about 22s. 6d. per cwt.; but the process of dyeing, at a cost of a few pence per ton, brings up their wholesale value to the level of ordinary grades of West Indian grocery crystallised, known to the public as "Demerara" sugar. The catalogue in question is quite honest as to the source of these crystals, and as to the unholy operation to which they have been subjected. It is, of course a legitimate step to sell them; but at the same time the fact cannot be overlooked that the sale of these crystals affords an opportunity to the retailer to supply his customers with a dyed imitation of the finer qualities of genuine "Demerara" sugar at far less than the genuine article would have cost him.

In the London market on the 18th 760 tons of West Indian grocery crystallised were offered, the most of which was disposed of at steady rates. 5,274 bags of Jamaica crystallised were partly sold at 24s. to 24s. 6d.; 247 bags Jamaica muscovado sold at 20s. to 20s. 3d., and 27 bags of St. Lucia syrups at 17s. 6d. On the 22nd, out of 467 tons offered, only a small quantity was sold at easier prices. Out of 1,680 bags of St. Lucia crystallised, only 150 sold at 25s. to

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to May 20, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to May 29, 1915	1914
Sugar	30,886	24,876 Tons.	6,062	7,366 Tons.
Molasses		643 Puns.		
Rum	1,730,384	1,306,607 Proof Gals.	370,711	639,342 Galls.
Molascuit Ac.	885	926 Tons.		
Cacao	25,992	23,357 lbs.	2,878,500	4,007,360 Lbs.
Coffee	42,052	170,560	4,729,312	5,277,104
Coco-nuts	830,851	915,086 No	12,784,378	12,067,176 No.
Oranges			1,326,350	2,005,000
Bananas			3,363,904	6,740,601 Stems.
Cotton			21,927	10,592 Lbs.
Peimento			31,991	46,672 Cwts.
Gahier			4,918	12,930
Honey			47,404	105,173 Galls.
Dye-woods			17,307	30,110 Tons.
Gold	23,348	23,756 Ozs.		
Diamonds		4,549 Carats.		
Rice	10,044,439	7,603,011 lbs.	Arrwrt. 1,431,427	1,446,323 lbs.
Balata	736,536	314,278	Cacao 62,880	77,835
Rubber	825		Cotton 82,177	172,338
Timber	67,328	103,440 cubic ft.	.. Seed 112,621	424,056
Lumber	11,922	150,983 ft.		
Lime (strate of)	3,458	686 lbs.		

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to June 2, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to May 27, 1915	1914
Sugar	24,674	27,691 Tons.	14,746	19,023 Tons.
Molasses	1,745	2,281 Puns.	17,355	45,797 Puns.
Rum	2,162	668		
Coco-nuts	3,792,005	6,828,125 No.		
Asphalt	27,863	69,813 Tons.		
Maniak	213	83		
Bitters	6,832	7,772 Cases.		
Coffee	10,240	8,800 lbs.		
Trade Petrol	168,471	6,854,373 Galls.		
Cacao	34,179,400	50,187,200 lbs.	10,042,560	11,316,420 lbs.
Cotton			652	1,170 Bales.
.. Seed			998	3,553 Bags.
Copra	10,747	3,705 Bags.	96	130
Spice			816,895	841,740 lbs.
Kola			3,160	3,130

	Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to May 30, 1914/15	1913/14
Cacao	10,042,560	11,316,420 lbs.
Cotton	652	1,170 Bales.
.. Seed	998	3,553 Bags.
Copra	96	130
Spice	816,895	841,740 lbs.
Kola	3,160	3,130

	Dominica.	
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914.	1913.
Cacao	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	379,825	336,228 galls.
.. concentrated	148,179	158,974
.. Citrate of	5,191	4,753 cwts.
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984	5,370 galls.
.. equalled	1,619	1,505
Hardwood	82,134	77,903 feet.
Bananas	3,780	4,266 stems.
Coconuts	554,549	448,747 No.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.



258. 3d.; of 2,091 bags Jamaica, 651 sold at from 23s. 7½d. to 24s. 3d., while 920 bags Trinidad were bought in. On the 25th 600 tons were offered, with little demand for good and choice varieties. Low grocery, however, sold at steady rates, a portion of the 3,786 bags Jamaica put up fetching 24s. to 24s. 6d.; 912 bags St. Lucia syrups sold at 16s. to 16s. 6d. To-day, 2,000 bags of Trinidad crystallised was put up for sale, but was all bought in.

Tate's cubes are quoted at 31s., and White Javas at 26s. 9d.

The West Indian sugar statistics up to the 19th June are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Tons
Imports	19,957	21,670	26,370	15,610	25,794	..
Deliveries	17,426	13,674	13,393	13,767	16,254	..
Stock	8,540	20,600	14,816	6,331	13,900	..

The New York market remained steady at \$4.89 for 96° landed duty paid and \$6.00 for granulated until the 21st when the market for raws weakened, and the price fluctuated between \$4.83 and \$4.80. Later a further decline took place to \$4.80, the price subsequently returning to from \$4.83 to \$4.89, with granulated at \$6.00.

**RUM**—The Demerara market has been very steady. Ordinary marks have been disposed of at 2s. 4d. proof, with choice marks at 2s. 5d. Jamaica is firm, but there is little actual business, as samples are only now coming from the docks. Importers generally are asking some advance. Present quotations are 3s. 3d. to 5s. for common to fine.

The stocks in London on June 19th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Puns
Jamaica	4,125	7,637	6,146	7,924	9,545	..
Demerara	7,248	10,950	7,842	7,052	5,982	..
Total, all kinds	19,183	25,972	21,557	22,312	25,256	..

**CACAO**—Since the date of the last CIRCULAR no auction sales have taken place until to-day, but a considerable quantity has changed hands privately at advanced rates, including Trinidad at 76s. to 80s., and St. Lucia at 67s. At auction to-day 7,000 bags, of which 3,421 were West Indian, were offered. 1,272 bags of Grenada were all sold at full prices, 71s. to 79s. 6d.; 1,427 bags of Trinidad met with indifferent competition, a part being sold at 76s. 6d. to 80s.; 466 bags of Jamaica were partly sold at 74s. 6d.; 35 bags of Demerara realised 78s. 6d. to 79s.; 186 bags St. Lucia were mostly sold at from 68s. to 79s.; 13 bags of St. Vincent were disposed of at 73s. 6d.; and 9 bags of Demerara were bought in.

The Report of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1914, is to hand. This shows that the consumption of cacao in its raw state for that year was only 6,887,757 lbs. as against 6,603,083 for the previous year. The consumption of imported cocoa and chocolate was 1,445,765 lbs. and 1,435,064 lbs. respectively. There is, therefore, little or no increase in the consumption of cocoa and chocolate in that country. This is about 1 lb. per head of population per annum, while that of the British Isles is about 3 lbs. per head.

The stocks in London on June 19th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Bags.
Grenada	11,306	9,761	9,075	7,625	7,647	..
Trinidad	2,736	13,068	7,636	5,502	17,285	..
Total, all kinds	74,101	99,136	80,774	110,604	125,688	..

**COTTON**—There has been no business passing in West Indian cotton during the fortnight. The imports of West Indian up to the 24th inst. for the year were 2,138 bales.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil.—A small first hand parcel of distilled has sold at 5s. 4d. per lb. There have been some sales of handpressed at 7s. per lb. Lime Juice.—Raw, good to fine Jamaica has been sold at 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d., and Dominica at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per gallon. No change in Concentrated. Citrate of Lime is unchanged at about £25 per ton c.i.f. New York.

**SPICES**—With scarcity of supplies the Nutmeg market is firm; 100's/80's may be quoted at 43d. to 53d.; 120's/100's at 41d. to 41d.; 140's/120's at 41d. to 41d. Mace, good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 11d.; red to good 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d.; broken 9d. to 1s. 4d. Pimento, fair to good, 2d. to 2s. 6d.; ordinary to middling, 13d. to 2d. The demand for Ginger has been good and the market firm. Good common may be quoted at 37s. 6d. to 60s.; fair small to medium, 62s. 6d. to 65s.; good to fine, 67s. 6d. to 75s.

**ARROWROOT**—Business reported quite on the retail scale; quotations 2½d. to 4½d. for St. Vincent

**COPRA**—There has scarcely been any business doing in West Indian copra. The market continues to be very dull, and prices incline downwards. Quotations are now £21 10s. to £22 c.i.f. London.

**COCO-NUT OIL**—Ceylon is unchanged at £41 to £41 per ton.

**RUBBER**—In the early part of the fortnight the Plantation rubber market was strong owing to buying from America, a further advance of ½d. having been made, but is now quiet. Para has continued dull, with prices somewhat easier. Fine plantation can be quoted at 2s. 6½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 5½d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 6½d., with soft at 2s. 3½d.

**BALATA**—The market for sheet has been steady, price landed terms has been, sellers 2s. 4½d., buyers 2s. 4½d.; block has been dull, sellers are asking 1s. 10½d. c.i.f.; buyers price being 1s. 10d.

**HONEY**—Value is still nominal, no sales having been made since last Summary. Quotation 30s. to 40s. for dark to pale.

**COFFEE**—The demand at the commencement of the fortnight was good; but has since fallen off. At auction sales last week 32 barrels and 168 bags Jamaica were put up, but were bought in. The value of good to fine ordinary Jamaica is from 51s. to 55s. per cwt.

**TIMBER**—The value of Greenheart may now be taken as being £12 10s. per load. In our last Summary the quotation was given per ton. It should have been per load of 50 cubic feet.

**WOODS**—Fustic remains at £3 10s. to £5; Jamaica Logwood £4 10s. to £5 5s.; Honduras Cedar at 4d. to 5d.; Lignum Vitæ £3 to £7; Satinwood 9d. to 2s.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—American, 82½; Water White, 93d.

**MANURES**—The market for Sulphate of Ammonia continues firm and prices have a tendency to advance, value £14 10s. to £14 15s. per ton. Nitrate of Soda is steady at firm prices, and may be quoted at £13 5s. per ton. There is a good demand for phosphates for export; but makers are generally fully sold. The value of Ordinary Superphosphate, however, may be taken at £3 5s. per ton; of Concentrated, £14 to £15 per ton; and of Basic Slag, 50s. per ton.

June 29th, 1915.

AJGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum, post free, to any part of the world. Cheques should be made payable to the West India Committee and crossed "The Union of London and Smith's Bank." Particulars regarding advertisement charges may be obtained from the Manager, The West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Spring-backed Filing Cases for holding one year's issues of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR can be obtained at the same address, price 2s. 6d. each, or post free 2s. 10d.

# West India Committee Circular.

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CARIB, LONDON

July 12th, 1915.

### THE PROPOSED WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

**R**ECRUITING for the proposed West Indian contingent for service at the front is proceeding apace. In Jamaica, the necessary funds are being raised by voluntary subscription, and a Jamaica Contingent Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. WILLIAM WILSON, of Kingston. Sufficient money has been received to pay the passages to England of some hundreds of men. More than enough recruits have already been secured for the first contingent, but the Governor, BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM MANNING, who is reported by cable to have announced that he has ample funds to spend on training the troops, has instructed the police inspectors to continue recruiting the best type of men for military service. In Barbados, the House of Assembly having been dissolved, the members of the old House met in joint session with the Legislative Council on June 1st, and recommended the adoption of a vote of £2,500 to pay the expenses in connection with the recruiting, passages, etc., of volunteers for enlistment in Kitchener's Army, but it is hoped that arrangements may be made for all the West Indians to serve together as a unit or units. Meanwhile a Committee, comprising HON. J. CHALLENGER LYNCH, Chairman, HON. J. A. BURDON, C.M.G., HON. SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., Mr. H. L. JOHN-

SON, Mr. H. W. LOFTY, Mr. G. S. EVELYN, and Mr. R. G. CAVE, has been appointed to select suitable recruits for the Army. The present age limit is between 18 and 35 years, and the qualifications include thorough physical fitness, height not less than 5 ft. 4 in., general intelligence and good character; and unmarried men are at present preferred. Arrangements have been made for teaching the recruits the rudiments of drill, and the movement is evoking much enthusiasm. With regard to British Guiana, the Governor, SIR WALTER EGERTON, at a meeting of the Combined Court on June 4th asked for and was readily granted permission for the despatch from the colony of recruits for Active Service for the duration of the war. Moving a resolution on the subject he said that he had taken action in the matter directly he had learnt that an offer of recruits from Jamaica had been accepted by the Army Council. He understood that the men sent home would have to be medically examined, and would have to be in all respects up to the physical standard fixed for recruits of infantry of the line. Training would be carried out in the United Kingdom, and equipment would be provided by the Imperial Government who would take over the contingent on arrival in England and would be responsible for all further expense. Mr. CECIL CLEMENTI, the Government Secretary, said that it was hoped to effect a saving of about \$20,000 out of the \$35,000 provided for the defence of the colony last year, and that if that could be done and fares arranged on a basis of not more than £10 per head, that sum would be sufficient to send several hundred men over. In British Guiana, as in Barbados, it was not quite clear whether they would form a separate unit; but the Governor said he was in communication with SIR WILLIAM MANNING on the subject. The position in Trinidad was less certain when the mail left, and, in the absence of any pronouncement by the Government of its intentions, recruits had been advertised for by private enterprise in the local papers. The Governor, SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE had, however, taken the opportunity of a meeting of the Agricultural Society to assure the community that the matter had not been lost sight of, and that he had been in communication with the Government regarding it. When the mail closed it seemed probable that official action on the lines of that adopted in the neighbouring colonies would be taken, and that Trinidad would contribute its full share of recruits to the West Indian Contingent. Meanwhile the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have placed their organisation unreservedly at the disposal of the Colonial Office and the Government for

the carrying out of any arrangements which may be desirable or necessary on this side. It has occurred to them that when the troops from the West Indies arrive in this country the existence of an organisation on the lines of those dealing with the troops from Australia and Canada, to provide for their well-being, might be desirable, and they have offered to form a special department with this object in view. It will be gathered from the above summary of the steps which have so far been taken in the various colonies towards providing recruits that some time must elapse before the men can sail. It must be remembered that many arrangements have to be settled in connection with terms of enlistment, pay, allowances, pensions for disablement, etc.—all matters which cannot be adjusted in a moment—before any definite move can be made. From enquiries which we have made at the War Office and Colonial Office, we are satisfied that there has been no delay, and there is every reason to hope that the terms of enlistment will shortly be available. Meanwhile it must be recognised that when the force does come over months must elapse before the men are sufficiently trained to take their place in the firing line, and it is hoped that arrangements may be possible for them to begin their preliminary training in the colonies pending their departure.

#### THE HOOK-WORM IN ANTIGUA.

**T**HROUGH the generosity of the International Health Commission, DR. E. S. MARSHALL was enabled last year to conduct an investigation in Antigua into the prevalence of the enfeebling complaint known as ankylostomiasis, or hook-worm disease, in that Presidency of the Leeward Islands. His report, which has now been published by the Colonial Government, discloses the existence of a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, there being no sanitary arrangements or conveniences whatever in the country districts, with the result that hook-worm disease is rife. Geologically the island is divided into three parts, the limestone area, the Central Plain, and the volcanic or hill district of the south. It is in the latter of these that ankylostomiasis is most prevalent, the population having been found to be infected to the extent of between 25 and 30 per cent., the efficiency of the labourers being diminished in proportion. The limestone area and Central Plain show a better record; but, owing to the people in the course of their work or occupation continually moving from one district or parish to another the infection is carried about, and no part of the island can be said to be free from this wasting complaint, which renders the sufferers anæmic and listless, and eventually a misery to themselves and to their relatives and friends. DR. MARSHALL attributes the spread of the disease to the "entire absence of Sanitary Laws or Regulations, which accounts for the dirty habits of the Antigua negro"—a reproach which must be removed. In view of the fact that

the principal source of infection in ankylostomiasis is the excreta of those who are suffering from it, it will be readily understood that the most effective manner of coping with the disease is by the provision of adequate latrine accommodation, and the insistence upon its use in all the villages and on all the estates. In British Guiana the steps which were taken in this direction some years ago were at first viewed with suspicion and were neither popular with the people, whose prejudices, based on ignorance, are hard to overcome, nor with some of the estates' managers, who viewed with apprehension the fresh expense to which their employers would be put. The East Indian labourers, however, soon began to appreciate the boon which was conferred upon them and the proprietors were not slow to realise the improvement of the health of the people was an economic factor which would have an important bearing on their labour supply. It will probably be the same in Antigua. DR. MARSHALL holds the view that in order to cope effectively with the existing state of affairs compulsory measures of prevention will be necessary. Examination and treatment must be made compulsory as vaccination now is, and the law must apply to all classes of the community irrespective of class and colour. With the adoption of the measures which he proposes DR. MARSHALL is satisfied that ankylostomiasis can be completely eradicated within two years. We are glad to learn from a letter which MR. HARCOURT addressed to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE before he left the Colonial Office that a campaign for the eradication of the disease is to be started. He pointed out that the co-operation of the estates' proprietors would be essential to the success of such a campaign, and invited the assistance of the COMMITTEE in calling their attention to the matter. We do not believe that the help of the proprietors will be solicited in vain. Apart from philanthropic considerations the proposed campaign should appeal to them as a business proposition. Besides ensuring the betterment of the people a successful campaign for the prevention of ankylostomiasis would have a very marked effect on the quality and quantity of the labour supply.

THE Royal Society of Arts has awarded its silver medal to Mr. E. R. Davson for the paper on "Sugar and the War," which he read before the Society on February 2nd.

IN last CIRCULAR reference was made to the enterprise of Messrs. Thomson Hankey and Co., in arranging for the despatch of S.S. *Tennyson* to Jamaica to collect cargo at Savannah-la-Mar and Falmouth. The thanks of Jamaica are also due to another firm of merchants, Messrs Gillespie, Bros., and Co., who have chartered the S.S. *Capnor* to carry cargo from Jamaica. This vessel, whose capacity is 3,400 tons of general cargo, should now be loading at Kingston, St. Anne's Bay, or Montego Bay, at each of which ports she was due to call.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

## Sixteen new Members admitted.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on July 8th. Those also present were Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. C. Moody-Stuart, Major H. F. Previte, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The following were admitted members of the West India Committee:—

Names.	Proposers and Seconders.
Mr. H. H. Hart (St Kitts)	{ Mr. A. S. Creighton. { Mr. E. A. Percival.
Mr. W. J. Messervy (Trinidad)	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.
Mr. Frank W. Bell (Grenada)	{ Hon. W. Grahame Laing. { Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne.
Mr. William J. Robson (British Guiana)	{ Mr. H. Delafons. { Mr. J. B. Cassels.
Mr. Thomas O. Miller (British Guiana)	{ Mr. R. E. Brassington. { Mr. J. G. Mackenzie.
Mr. William E. Burton (Anguilla)	{ Mr. Carter Rey. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. H. Thompson King (British Guiana)	{ Mr. M. A. French, J.P. { Mr. F. I. Scard, P.I.C.
Mr. M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., (Colombia)	{ Mr. F. Evans. { Major H. P. Previte.
Mr. E. B. Jarvis (Uganda)	{ His Honour T. Leslie Jarvis { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
His Honour Mr. Arthur W. Mahaffy (Dominica)	{ Mr. W. M. Campbell. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
His Honour Captain Cyril H. Elgee (Montserrat)	{ Mr. K. P. Penchoen. { Hon. Fred. Driver.
Mr. H. R. Howes (Montserrat)	{ Mr. K. P. Penchoen. { Hon. Fred. Driver.
Mr. James R. Osborne (Montserrat)	{ Mr. K. P. Penchoen. { Hon. Fred. Driver.
Mr. Charles Mercer (Montserrat)	{ Mr. K. P. Penchoen. { Hon. Fred. Driver.
Mr. J. M. Richards (St Vincent)	{ Mr. Joseph M. Gray, J.P. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. Albert H. Cipriani (Trinidad)	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. { Mr. Stephen Ewan.

During the year to date 61 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

British Guiana	... 8	Dominica	... 1
Trinidad	... 8	Bahamas	... 1
Barbados	... 6	British Honduras	... 1
Tobago	... 5	Nevis	... 1
Montserrat	... 4	St. Vincent	... 1
Grenada	... 3	Uganda	... 1
St. Kitts	... 3	Colombia	... 1
Jamaica	... 2	London	... 9
Anguilla	... 1	Country	... 4
Antigua	... 1		

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

## Some Defenders of Montserrat.

The Defence Reserve of Montserrat has been brought to a high state of efficiency by Captain Ruane, the local Military Instructor, since the outbreak of war, and it will be generally agreed that the members of it depicted on another page in the present CIRCULAR form a very business-like body of men. Those sitting in the middle of the group are Lieut. Hon. F. F. Dyett, Captain C. H. Elgee, the Acting Commissioner of Montserrat; Captain P. Ruane, and Canon Haynes, Chaplain.

## Government House near Plymouth.

Anyone asked to choose between the common-place-looking residence which shelters the Governor of the Leeward Islands in Antigua and Government House in Montserrat, would almost certainly select the latter. The official residence in Antigua leaves much to be desired in many respects, and it will no doubt be replaced by a more suitable building, and one more befitting the dignity of the seat of Government of the Leeward Islands when the finances of the colony permit. The Commissioner's residence in the neighbouring Presidency is, on the other hand, not only picturesque, but charming in every way. Situated at about five minutes walk from Plymouth, it stands on the site of an earlier house erected in 1750, on cliffs overlooking the sea. The house is surrounded by wide verandahs which make it delightfully cool, and it stands in very beautiful grounds. It will be noted that the centre gable is surmounted by a shamrock leaf, a reminder of the fact that the island has been called "the Emerald Isle of the West," having been largely peopled by the Irish in the seventeenth century. To this day many of the negroes speak with a distinct brogue, while Irish names are quite common. Standing on the balcony is Captain Elgee, who has been acting as Commissioner during the absence on active service of Lt.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., in whose regime the new Government house was built. For both of the illustrations referred to above the CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. José Anjo, of Antigua.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 is. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

[Passed by the Censor for publication.]

No thanks to its military critics, with one or two exceptions, or to its political leaders, the country at last understands that it is "in grave peril." But have we got out of the unreasoning optimism, which supposed that we could win victory without making the necessary sacrifices? Even now we are dealing in half-measures, the Munitions Bill assuming that there will be differences in capital and labour by providing arbitration to meet them.

The National Registration Bill, which is to enable the authorities to classify the serviceable resources of the country, is a step in the right direction, which should have been taken last August. The only way to avoid a "draw," which would merely postpone the inevitable day when England and Germany must come to death grips, is to put every ounce of national energy into winning a decisive victory now. As to finance the Government would do well in preaching economy to practise it, the waste and extravagance both in State Departments and municipal institutions being on the most reckless scale. Stern thrift and national sacrifices, in which all bear a share, are absolutely essential if we are to avert financial ruin and military disaster.

### Indecisive Warfare.

The offensive, which the Allies were to take in the Spring has not yet come off. It began, as we believed, with Neuve Chapelle, which was a great victory; . . . Then the French, vigorously aided by the British, began to gain ground on the Notre-Dame-de-Lorette positions. After that came the capture of Hill 60, south-east of Ypres; and the attack on the Aubers Ridge. Any one of these movements might have been the starting point of the big offensive we have dreamed about. But our hopes have died in disappointment as each has led to nothing decisive. In the meantime the French have been attacking without intermission until the enemy, alarmed, began to bring up reinforcements.

### The Western Front.

It looks as though the enemy is again trying to find a weak place in the Allied Line. In the Argonne he has been very active, with the aid of asphyxiating gas and corrosive liquids, temporarily gaining some trenches, most of which he lost again in the French counter-attack. At Souchez, Soissons, and the Vosges he has "nibbled" without swallowing anything, but at Mihiel, where his wedge is being pinched very thin, he has recovered some ground, though farther east he was repelled, our Allies arresting the deluge of burning liquid, with which they were threatened, just in time.

A stirring despatch from Sir John French covering the German attempt to break through at Ypres is published in the newspapers of July 12th. He

makes special reference to the abominable gas attacks, and the "cynical and barbarous disregard" shown by the Germans "of the well-known usages of civilised warfare," adding: "As a soldier I cannot help expressing the deepest regret and some surprise that an Army which hitherto has claimed to be the chief exponent of the chivalry of war should have stooped to employ such devices against brave and gallant foes."

### The Situation in the East.

The Russians have suffered exceedingly heavy defeats in their masterly retreat, but their line remains unbroken. The Germans have, indeed, recovered Galicia for Austria, with the control of the oil-fields therein, but they have failed in the primary object of their terrible thrust, the destruction of the Russian Army. Their success, however, is leading them to undertake a new campaign, which is aimed at Warsaw and Brest-Litovsk, the railway centre of Eastern Poland, and with Bielostok, the great *place d'armes* for operations against Germany and Austria. But to force the Russians back to the Niemen-Bug line as they propose the Germans are traversing an area without railways, and their supplies have to be borne by road transport or by field railways whose carrying capacity is limited. They will, therefore, not have the unlimited command of ammunition, which contributed so largely to their successes in Galicia. The new Russian front follows the line of the Dniester to Haliex, and then turns eastward to the Bug, which it follows to Szisla and then runs towards the Tanev and San. A further retreat is not at all unlikely, though a big battle is raging south-east of Warsaw, in which the enemy is not having it all his own way. But the fact for us to face is that the recovery of Russia is not to be expected for months to come. That is why the forcing of the Dardanelles is so important. . . . It may well be that the fall of Constantinople may mark the beginning of the last phase of the war, as the fall of Antwerp marked the beginning of the second. German reinforcements from the east are not likely to go west for a long time yet.

### The Fighting in Gallipoli.

The general attack on the Turkish positions on June 4th was only partially successful, carrying the centre of the Allied line forward, but not its flanks. With the aid of British ships the French advanced on the east on June 21st, and a week later got a footing in a network of fortifications and trenches, which they call the "Quadrilateral." This was part of a brilliant attack on the left flank, which was carried to a successful issue. Not only were several of the enemy trenches gained, but a redoubt in Saghir Dere, which has long been a source of trouble, was captured by a daring assault of the Border Regiment, while the Gurkhas pushed forward to a knoll due west of Krithia, which was not part of the objective, and held it. Before the attack of June 4th, the Allied line was slightly concave; after, it bulged in the centre with the points turned



[Photograph]

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONTSERRAT.**

[Jose Anjo.]



[Photograph]

**THE MONTSERRAT DEFENCE RESERVE.**

[Jose Anjo.]

down. Since the successes of June 28th, the points have been turned upward representing a gain of 1,000 yards. The Turks are making desperate counter-attacks to recover their lost ground, involving them in heavy losses. So keenly is it felt that the outer gate of Constantinople must be held that Turkish commanders are being ordered to hold trenches on pain of death. To force the Dardanelles is not only important from the military, but from the political point of view as well, for in the present indecisive stage of the war neither Bulgaria nor Roumania will come in. Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch, published on July 6th, gives a stirring

### The War at Sea.

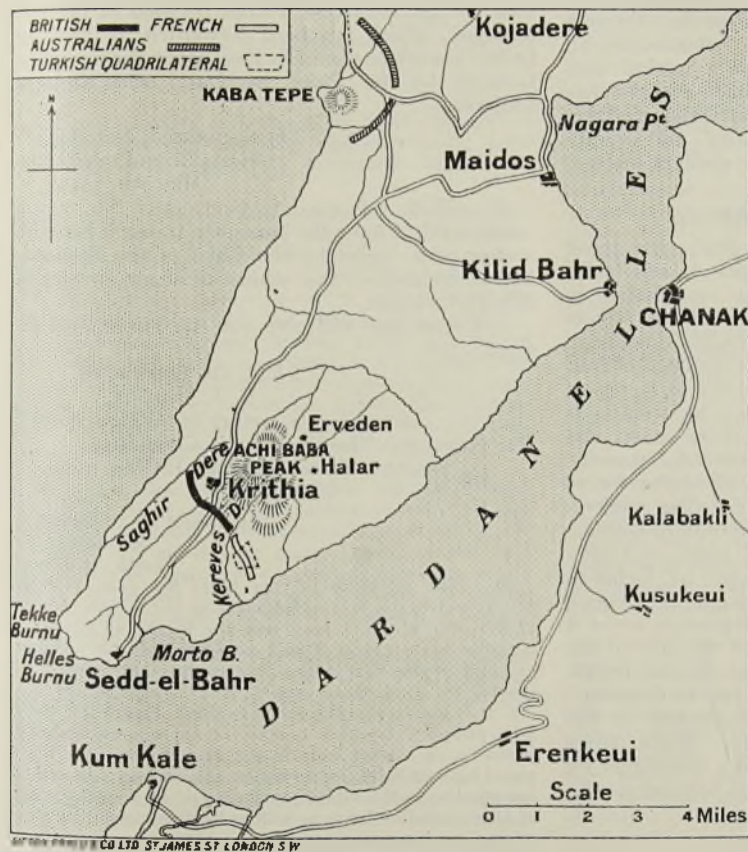
The Russians, who are acting strategically in the Baltic with the British Fleet have opened the month well. One of their patrol squadrons fell in with five German cruisers near Gothland, one of them, the minelayer, *Albatross*, was so damaged by the Russian fire that she was beached by her commander after losing 28 of her crew. The Swedish authorities have taken precautions that neither the ship nor her company, including 33 wounded, shall escape. The same afternoon the Russians engaged a German battleship squadron, skilfully despatching submarines to cut off the enemy's retreat into Danzig Harbour. One of them—it was subsequently announced officially that it was a British submarine—sank a battleship of the *Deutschland* class, and a destroyer rammed a German submarine as she was trying to approach the Russian ships. Why the enemy base a strong fleet on Danzig is not known, but the object is, probably, to protect the German littoral. In any case the Russian Baltic Fleet is doing good service to the Allies by detaching certain important units from the German Main Fleet, and keeping them employed.

Apparently submarine piracy concentrates in certain areas. A few weeks ago it was the North Sea trawlers that suffered. At present destruction is being wrought on British and neutral shipping at the western entrances to the Channel. In torpedoing the American ship *Armenian*, with a loss of 29 lives on June 28th, the Germans have answered President Wilson's Note with defiance. After dodging the fire of a submarine for three hours, the *Anglo-Californian* was brought into port on July 3 through the courage, seamanship and endurance of her captain and crew. There were 17 casualties, including the captain, who was killed, his

gallant son taking his place at the wheel as he fell.

### Germany's Reply to America.

The text of the German reply to the American Note on submarine warfare is published in the newspapers of July 12th. It expresses the desire of Germany to be governed in its statements and decisions by "the principles of humanity," throws the blame for the loss of the *Lusitania* on Great Britain,



The Allies' Position in Gallipoli.

account of the landing on the Gallipoli peninsula, and forms a record of British courage which has never been exceeded.

### Italy's Progress.

Meanwhile Italy is taking up covering points on the Austrian frontier at the most favourable points, and, on the left bank of the Isonzo, securing bridge-heads to facilitate future operations.

permits Americans to cross the Atlantic under certain conditions, and in certain vessels, and appeals to the United States to co-operate with Germany in securing "the freedom of the seas." The reply is generally characterised as insulting and impertinent.

#### In East Africa.

Here, though the enemy is favoured by space and time, a signal success is reported in amphibious warfare. For it should be noted that there is now on Lake Victoria Nyanza a fleet of armed vessels. With its aid a simultaneous advance was made on Bukoba in German territory, one force starting from Kisumu, between which and the objective stretched the breadth of the lake, 240 miles; the other from the Kagera River, south of Uganda, through swampy country for thirty miles. Overcoming all difficulties, however, they effected a tactical conjunction at Bukoba. The enemy made a most determined resistance, the Arabs, in particular, fighting bravely. But they were outnumbered, and eventually broke in disorder. It was an excellent piece of work.

#### Botha's Triumph in Africa.

The rapid advance of General Botha has upset all the calculations of the Germans. It was facilitated by a fresh triumph of Union organisation in the linking up of the South African railway system with the railway system in the enemy's country, the material having been carried a distance of four hundred miles. Apparently problems of transport were overcome by these hardy sons of the frontier as if by magic. To prevent the flight of the enemy into Portuguese territory, or guerilla warfare, an encircling movement was carried out, involving forced marches through a trackless and waterless country. The result was the surrender of the bulk of German troops, together with stores and arms, at Otavi. Though he has been ably seconded by Generals Lukin and Mackenzie, the triumph is General Botha's, whose judgment and strategy were never at fault. A new colony, three times the size of the United Kingdom, has thus been added to the British Empire. Its loss will be keenly felt in Germany, for it was the only one of her dependencies that promised to develop into a colony. South Africa has offered the British Government a contingent for service in Europe, and the offer has been accepted.

(To be continued.)

The "orangelo"—a cross between the orange and the grape-fruit—has, says the *Maritime Merchant*, made its appearance. With a rind like an orange and meat like a grape-fruit, it partakes of characteristics of both of its parents. The core is small, seeds few, and the juice sacs larger than in the grape-fruit. The flavour is a blend, and the fruit has not as much acidity as the grape-fruit, but it retains an orange taste. Like the satsuma orange, the tree is stronger than the grape-fruit's parent and vigorous and prolific. The fruit is firm and is said to ship well.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### VI.—ANOTHER SOURCE OF SUGAR.

A report furnished by the Governor-General of Nigeria and published in last issue showed that, in the event of preferential treatment being given to colonial cane sugar, the possibilities of that country as a source of supply of cane sugar would be well worthy of the most careful inquiry. That British East Africa is another potential source of supply of cane sugar is shown by a report of Mr. H. Powell, Chief of the Economic Plants Division of the Protectorate, which has been forwarded to the West India Committee from His Excellency the Governor-General by the Chief Secretary, who wrote as follows:—

The Secretariat, Nairobi,  
East Africa Protectorate.  
May 7th, 1915.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 373 of January 6th, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report by the Chief of the Economic Plants division on the subject of sugar growing in this Protectorate.

2. I trust this will give you the information desired.

I have the honour, etc.,  
E. J. MONSON,

For Chief Secretary to the Government.  
The Secretary, The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

[Enclosures.]

Department of Agriculture,  
Mombasa.

27th April, 1915.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 11,093/4 of 8th March and to my acknowledgment of the receipt of same of the 12th March, I have now the honour to forward a report as to the extent of land considered suitable for sugar growing in the East Africa Protectorate, also remarks as regards the local labour supply; cost of sugar factory, etc.

2. It is highly pleasing to me to think, that at last, there is a prospect, however remote, of sugar growing being taken up on a good scale in the Protectorate. For years past I have endeavoured to arouse the interest of several of our planters in the subject, by means of my annual reports, and occasional bulletins as well as by discussing the matter during my inspection tours.

3. It was purely with the intention of supplementing my West Indies experience of sugar growing that I approached His Excellency the Governor through the Hon. the Director of Agriculture and the Under Secretary of State, to grant me a month's extra leave to admit of my enquiring into the sugar industry in Natal.

4. With a similar desire to be of service to prospective sugar planters in the Protectorate I obtained an introduction through Mr. John S. Sheldries, 96, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, to the London representative, No. 171, Victoria Street, of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston and Co., Limited, Phoenix Foundry, 17, York Street, Liverpool, which firm very courteously caused to be prepared and



supplied me with an estimate specification and plan of a sugar factory, designed for the special conditions of British East Africa.

5. The varieties of sugar-cane named below are under trial at the Government Experimental Farm, Mazeras.

(a) Striped Ribbon	Mauritius.
(b) Transparent	"
(c) Uba	Natal.
(d) Sealy Seedling	West Indies.
(e) B.3922	"
(f) B.1528	"
(g) R.A.596	"

6. The Natal and West Indian varieties are also under trial at the Government Experimental Farm, Kabete.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

H. POWELL,

Chief of the Economic Plants Division.

The Hon. C. C. Bowring,  
Chief Secretary, Nairobi.

*Report in connection with the West India Committee's enquiry as to the extent of land suitable for sugar growing in the East Africa Protectorate; labour conditions, etc.*

From a purely sugar growing point of view the Tana River Valley far transcends any other part of the Protectorate known to the writer. In the lower part of this valley there are extensive areas of rich alluvial land eminently suited to the sugar-cane as is evidenced by the patches of cane grown here and there by the natives.

On the section of country between Kipini and the old Tana, bounded by the Belazoni Canal, it is estimated there are about 11,000 acres adapted for sugar-cane from 1,000 to 5,000 acres of which are on the Belazoni Estate of the British East Africa Cotton Company, who have carried out extensive developments in the matter of reclamation, irrigation and general experimental work.

On the left bank of the Tana River and the Belazoni Canal in the direction of Witu, is another stretch of rich alluvial land, probably 70,000 to 80,000 acres in extent, and seemingly, very suitable for canes. Again, on the right bank of the Old Tana River is a much more extensive area of rich alluvial soil approximately estimated at 150,000 acres, the greater portion of which is regarded as a sugar-cane growing proposition.

In estimating the quantity of land available and suitable for sugar-cane in the Tana River Valley I have had the valuable help of Mr. T. Rule, the experienced manager of the British East Africa Cotton Company's estates.

#### *Sabaki River Valley.*

Extensive stretches of highly fertile alluvial land exist here, and the sugar-cane is flourishing on numerous native shambas. The greater part of the land in the Sabaki Valley is in the hands of natives, and provided the people could be induced to take up "cane-farming," such as is done by small landholders in parts of the West Indies, and a Central Factory were established for treating the canes, the development of a sugar industry here could be made practicable.

The writer finds difficulty in estimating the area of land adapted for sugar-cane in the Sabaki River Valley, but from personal observation is of opinion that at least from 15,000 to 20,000 acres are suitable.

#### *Juba River Valley.*

On the highly developed Halwalo property of Mr. Charles Gabriel cotton has been fairly extensively grown

under irrigation, and it is likely that the sugar-cane would also thrive under similar good treatment. Higher up in Goshia, even as far as Alexandra, the prospects, for sugar-cane culture are considered good, and there are probably 50,000 acres suitable. Practical experiments are, however, needed to determine the suitability or otherwise of the Juba River Valley for sugar production before a definite pronouncement can be made thereon.

#### *Voi Swamp.*

This fertile area of alluvial land perhaps 1,500 to 2,000 acres in extent, is, for the most part well suited to the sugar-cane, patches of which have been, and are still being, grown by natives and Indians.

#### *Kibwesi District.*

In connection with a recent visit to the Kibwesi estate of the British East Africa Fibre and Industrial Company, Limited, I reported under the heading of sugar-cane thus: In the event of a second staple crop being needed for the Kibwesi estate the cultivation of sugar-canes should be worthy of consideration. A year and a half ago one of the headmen employed on the property was allowed to plant an acre of canes in land which got the oozings of the Canal. The growth of the cane is exceptionally vigorous, and the indications are that with the facilities for irrigation and the undoubted suitability of the soil the cultivation of up-to-date varieties of cane could be profitably carried on. It is estimated that there are 1,000 acres of irrigable land on the above estate suitable for sugar cane.

#### *Kibwesi Rubber Lands.*

It is also estimated that facilities are available for irrigating 1,000 acres of good sugar cane land on this property. A few miles lower down the Kibwesi River, Messrs. G. and R. Dean have established several acres in sugar-cane from plants supplied by the Government Experimental Farm, Mazeras, a little over a year ago. The planting of the canes was witnessed by the writer who also inspected the lot again in February last, the growth of the canes at this time being in every way good.

Probably 200 to 300 acres could be established under irrigation on Messrs. G. and R. Dean's property. There are further large areas of land of a quality suitable for sugar growing but the cultivation is restricted to the amount of water available in the Kibwesi River for irrigation.

#### *Kibos and Kibigori Districts.*

Ever since the establishment of an Indian settlement at Kibos several of the allottees turned their attention to the cultivation of sugar cane for the production of common sugar, or jaggery, for which there is some local demand. The sugar-cane flourishes at Kibos and Kibigori under good treatment and in these two districts it is estimated there are from 7,000 to 10,000 acres of land suitable for its cultivation.

#### *Uplands.*

Sugar-canes do surprisingly well in certain parts of the highlands, but the prospects for sugar growing are much more favourable in those parts of the coast belt enumerated in this review. Mr. R. W. Vesturne Bunbury has taken up sugar-cane growing on the property known as Kibobo Flats (Miwa Limited) and reports very highly on the promising condition of their canes there, in particular the "Ribbon" variety, which he obtained from the Government Farm, Mazeras. The same variety of cane obtained from the same source is doing splendidly on Messrs. G. and R. Dean's property in the Masongalani District. A nine acre plot of canes, to serve for nursery purposes is established

on the Kibobo Flats, and by the end of the current year Mr. Bunbury hopes to have 50 acres planted up in canes. Through the kind help of Mr. Vesturme Bunbury the writer is in a position to state that the approximate area of land irrigable from the Athi River and other sources in the Donyo Saouk and near districts is 2,950 acres. By means of costly schemes of conservation of water by high dams on the Athi River, Mr. Bunbury says very much larger areas of land might be irrigated, but thinks that such schemes will not come within the sphere of practical politics for many years to come.

#### *Soleil Valley.*

Canes are planted experimentally in the Soleil Valley, and are said to be thriving. The area considered suitable for sugar growing in the Nakuru and surrounding districts is not known but from an irrigable point of view can scarcely be extensive. The table given below summarises the approximate maximum areas of land classed by the writer as suitable for sugar growing in the various districts enumerated:—

(a) Tana River Valley	241,000	acres
(b) Sabaki River Valley	20,000	"
(c) Juba River Valley	50,000	"
(d) Voi Swamp	1,500	"
(e) Kibwesi District	2,300	"
(f) Kibos and Kibigori	10,000	"
(g) Donyo Sabuk District	2,950	"
Total	327,750	acres

For the purposes of this report only such areas as are immediately suitable for sugar growing have been taken into account.

#### *Labour Supply.*

In the case of the coast districts, and especially in the Tana River and Juba River Valleys, practically all the labourers have to be obtained from up-country, and in the event of sugar growing being taken up on any scale the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient and reliable labour supply in such parts would become still more pronounced.

In the sugar growing islands of the West Indies, also in Demerara, Mauritius and elsewhere, the local labour supply is supplemented with indentured coolies from India, and perhaps a similar arrangement could be made in British East Africa.

Also in countries where sugar growing is being newly established the services of managers, overseers and sugar boilers skilled in their respective branches are sought for from the older established sugar growing colonies.

#### *Sugar Factory.*

It is often supposed that the erection and equipment of a sugar factory is an exceedingly costly undertaking, and in the case of a large Central Factory this is indeed true; nevertheless, the writer is in a position to state that a completely equipped and up-to-date factory, capable of dealing with 30 tons of cane per day of 12 hours (upwards of 2½ tons of sugar) can be supplied by Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Company, Limited, Phoenix Foundry, 17, York Street, Liverpool, for £5,920, plus building and staging.

The price for the building and staging is given by the firm as £1,050, and the probable cost of erection of the factory, including foundation, £2,250, or in all £9,220, (o.s.), Liverpool.

#### *Imports of Sugar to British East Africa*

The quantity of sugar imported into the East Africa

Protectorate during 1914 amounted to 74,485 cwts., of the value of Rs. 822,437.

H. POWELL.

327,750 acres should produce at the lowest computation 650,000 tons of sugar per annum, or very nearly one-third of the consumption of the United Kingdom. While the factory suggested by Mr. Powell would be useful for the small cultivator and for experimental purposes, factories on a far larger scale would be needed for taking the canes off the large acreage available.

## CANE SUGAR IN INDIA.

In January last year, Mr. James Harvey, the Managing Director of the Harvey Engineering Company, was to have started for India to ascertain from its clients their requirements in regard to machinery, and also to advise the Government of India in connection with sugar matters generally. Circumstances prevented Mr. Harvey from leaving at the time, and Mr. Peter Abel, the well-known authority on cane sugar cultivation and manufacture and for many years manager of the celebrated Usine St. Madeleine in Trinidad, kindly took his place.

A summary of what Mr. Abel observed in connection with the factories now appears in the *Bulletin* of the Pusa Agricultural Research Institute, the principal points in which are reproduced below.

### Factory Buildings.

These seem to be solidly constructed but are in most cases insufficiently lighted. To this there is one notable exception, an exception also in the matter of space which, in most, is deficient.

Deficient space means insufficient lighting, and insufficient lighting makes cleanliness—the first essential in a sugar factory—impossible.

The approaches and exits seemed, in most cases, ill-arranged resulting in confusion of carts and animals, a confusion in no way lessened by the scales in use. In one factory the canes were weighed on one scale and the cart, after searching round for a convenient spot on which to discharge its load, was tared on another. Accumulations of cane in the yard prevented free manœuvring of carts and rendered impossible the grinding of cane in the order of its arrival, causing difficulty in cane carrier feeding and deterioration in cane seriously affecting the clarification of the juice and the quality and extraction of sugar.

Where Central Factories have encouraged small growers they have had great difficulty in controlling their deliveries. When growing canes for a factory of any considerable size the delivery is generally to some field scale where the load of the cart is picked up by a derrick and swung into the trucks of the factory. After raising the load, cart and animals are

lared and are free to move off. This system cannot, of course, be used in small factories having no railways.

### Cane-Carrier Feeding.

In all the factories visited this was done by hand and it appeared to absorb a great deal of labour. Mechanical feeding is a contrivance not yet 17 years old. It was first adopted on the Willwood Plantation, Louisiana, and was the invention of Mr. James Mallon, an American engineer. The Mallon machine was a pronounced success. The second and third pairs of machines, built by the Bodley Wagon Co., of Staunton, Virginia, were erected at the Usine Ste. Madeleine, Trinidad, where they dispensed with 64 hands, dealt easily with the 1,700 to 1,800 tons of cane ground daily, and could have disposed of five times the quantity.

Apart from the liberation of this large amount of labour for productive work in the field, other great advantages resulted from the use of these machines. The mills took the machine-fed canes more readily, and got through considerably more work with improved crushing.

The appearance of the Bodley-Mallon rakes, conferring as they did enormous advantages from an economic point of view and easing the work of supervision in the factory to an extent which can be appreciated only by those conversant with the working of cane sugar factories with tropical labour, was quickly followed by a number of other contrivances more or less widely advertised and different in efficiency, but all great labour-savers and infinitely preferable to feeding by hand.

This machine requires the attention of three hands. One attaches and releases the rope pulling the trucks up to the machine, one attends to the truck doors and one drives the engine. The loaded trucks which are pulled up to within reach of the claw push the empties to a point where they can be coupled up to the locomotive. The yard of the Trinidad Factory is graded 1 in 125 from the cane siding limit to the machines, and a touch of the hand brings the trucks within reach of the rakes. When emptied they move slowly by gravity and are collected at the other end of the factory. This, however, is the case with the two outside lines only. The lines inside the cane-carrier terminate in turntables on which the empties are turned out to be picked up and removed by the yard locomotive. The doors are put up by the train attendants at the other end of the factory.

In one Mexican factory the loads of the field trucks after passing over the scale are transferred by an overhead travelling crane to trucks of twice or three times the capacity. The latter are then drawn alongside the cane carrier to be emptied by hand while the small truck returns free to the field. The only advantage in this arrangement lies in permitting the work to be done with a smaller number of field trucks than what in the ordinary course would be necessary.

The Link Belt Engineering Co., of New York,

have devised an overhead crane and sling for transferring bodily the contents of the small field truck to a hopper at the end of the cane carrier. This machine is worked electrically as is the whole of the machinery in this factory except the mills, power being obtained from a stream behind the works.

The dumping of quantities of cane, weighing generally from one or two tons, in a heap on the cane-carrier is highly objectionable.

A different plan for hopper feeding is in use in a French factory in Tropical Mexico. The cane trucks are led on to a platform which is tipped by hydraulic power to an angle sufficient to throw off only a part of the load. As this is drawn away by the cane-carrier the platform is further inclined and the truck gradually relieved of its load.

In a sugar factory in the Island of Antigua, West Indies, a tipping platform has been arranged to facilitate the feeding of the cane-carrier. Over this the trucks are drawn and the canes disposed of by hand.

The factories visited in India have no railways of their own. Neither of the appliances mentioned can therefore be expected in any way to benefit them. All are inapplicable. But the American Hoist and Derrick Co. have a machine which, if it does not entirely eliminate labour at the cane-carrier, will very greatly reduce it and can be depended on to keep the cane yard well regulated and to eliminate absolutely the blocks and delays to the men and animals engaged in the transport service.

### Juice Extraction.

Questions as to juice extraction by mills did not result in much information which could be considered of value. In some of the factories, owing to the tangle of canes in the yard, the crushing cannot be taken daily—a serious drawback, as here no pains should be spared to obtain the maximum extraction.

In each case, however, the mills seemed to have fallen into careful hands. As far as could be judged by the eye all were doing good work. And this, in more than one case, despite the drawback of intermediate carriers scraping the bagasse from the first mill and presenting it in uneven quantity to the second.

In one case the crushing figures from the start of the crop of 1914 to the 28th February, week by week, were furnished by the Administration. The average fibre content of the cane during this period was given at 14.6 per cent. and the average crushing for the ten weeks works out at 62.69 per cent. On paper this does not look particularly good crushing. It is not while members of the staff are hovering round the cane-carriers and watching the feeding of the mills in the full light of day that bad crushing is done.

Much might be said on this subject. Before leaving India, by the courtesy of Mr. Keatinge, Director of Agriculture for the Bombay Presidency, I became possessed of a copy of Bulletin No. 52 of 1912, Department of Agriculture, Bombay. In that publica-

tion, the author, Mr. G. N. Sahasrabudhe, L. Ag., gives a table constructed by my friend Dr. Watts of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, giving the possible juice extraction from 100 of cane with fibre contents ranging from 8 to 16 per cent. by mills varying from the poorest type of bullock mill to the 9 roller modern mill preceded by a Krajewski crusher.

These figures are no doubt very useful as approximations, but those referring to two three-roller mills strike me as low. In 1882, along with the late Alfred Fryer, well-known in sugar circles in connection with the Concretor, I made certain experiments in juice extraction with two single mills, each 34 in. by 72 in. running with a peripheral speed of 8.9 feet per minute and set close to take only a thin feed.

The experiments lasted three weeks. During that period of continuous work—the only stoppages being on Sundays—the mills were never for a moment left to themselves. The crushing worked out at an average of 67.8 per cent.\* Mr. Fryer had throughout the experiment been making constant tests of the bagasse and he recorded it as having contained 45.34 per cent. of fibre, the fibre content of the cane for the period being 14.4 per cent. Too much care cannot possibly be bestowed upon the feeding of the mills. The Engineer may do his part by having them in the perfection of condition, but it rests with the Administration to get the perfection of work from them.

Before the days of "green" bagasse furnaces the appearance of the bagasse turned out overnight indicated the amount of care bestowed on the feeding of the mills. In these days bad work is hidden by burning up the bagasse as made. To insure good work, therefore, it is imperative that the crushing of the mills be taken once every 24 hours. The use of storage derricks would make this a very simple and withal a very profitable operation.

*(To be continued.)*

The Queensland Government has decided to purchase the entire sugar crop of the State for 1915 at a price averaging £18 per ton, with a view of reselling it to the Commonwealth for sale to the community. An expenditure of over £2,000,000 will be involved.

Mr. Frederick Hardyman Parker, B.L., M.A., Edin., has been appointed Chief Justice of Grenada.

Mr. Parker, who now succeeds Sir Robert Johnstone was called to the Bar as a member of the Middle Temple in 1880, and was admitted to the Bar in British Honduras in the following year. From Belize he went to Cyprus where he acted as Chief Justice, and from there he was promoted to the Leeward Islands as Puisne Judge. Mr. Parker is a man of considerable attainments. He won the Watson Prize at Edinburgh University for history and political economy, and can speak both Greek and Turkish, a gift which will be rather thrown away in Grenada.

\* These experiments were probably made in the Bourbon cane days.—Ed.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMINICA.

### A Road Programme to be definitely adopted.

Before Mr. Arthur Mahaffy went out to Dominica in March to assume the duties of Administrator of the island he promised the estates' proprietors at a meeting held at the West India Committee Rooms on February 25th last, that the question of road development, on the importance of which the Committee have so often laid stress, would receive his early attention.

He has redeemed his promise, and in his Address to the Legislative Council on June 4th, he was able to state that he had already devoted a considerable amount of time to the inspection of the roads, the arteries upon which the life of the island must depend. He went on to say that he had found the problem of their construction and of their maintenance even more difficult than he had been led to believe, for since his knowledge of the problem had been gained solely from the perusal of correspondence, he had not realised, and no one who had not travelled over them could ever realise, the extraordinary—he might almost say unique—nature of the physical configurations of the island.

Having spent 17 years of his life among the many islands of the Pacific, in which he explored and travelled much, he could assert with authority that of all the many islands visited, both smaller, and greater far, than Dominica, he had never seen any approaching it in ruggedness. There was no mountain system in the island, but isolated mountain masses torn and riven by deep gullies, which ended in precipices or were blocked by Pitons, between which there were no connecting or leading spurs, so that the labour of finding a satisfactory trace was vastly increased and complicated. But he need not dilate on these facts which were perfectly well known to the Council, and he only mentioned them to show some of the difficulties which beset the way of the road-maker in Dominica. But further, once made, the roads must be maintained, for it was worse than useless to make a road and then leave it until the torrential rains of the highlands washed it away, may be in a night, or the landslides from the mountain side obliterated it. And so, knowing all this, the road scheme formulated by Major Burdon, with certain modifications proposed by Mr. Drayton, had been agreed to and would be carried out to the best of their ability and with the modern mechanical appliances which they could afford. Even so the work was far from light and could not be accomplished in a hurry, but little by little, piece by piece, month by month and year by year they hoped they would be able to give the island roads well built, solid, resisting, which would indeed require considerable maintenance, but not re-making, as had been but too often the case with the mud roads of Dominica in the past. For some time at all events their energies must be mainly devoted to this work, for without it, the possibilities of the

island, certainly great, must lie undeveloped and the exquisite island of Dominica must remain a sleeping beauty among her neighbours. Full details of the work which they proposed to attempt would be laid before the Council, which would be asked to approve of the expenditure necessary to carry it out.

Dealing with the estimates, Mr. Mahaffy said that these included £4,135 for the re-construction and improvement of the main roads under the "Road programme." Besides this, the sum allocated for general maintenance of roads and bridges had been increased from £2,700 in 1914-15 to £3,600 for the current year. With the inclusion of these and sundry smaller items, the expenditure was expected to exceed the revenue by £4,500, and it was proposed to meet this and to provide a margin by transferring £5,323 from surplus assets to revenue account.

## AGRICULTURE IN TRINIDAD.

### Froghoppers and their Parasites.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. F. W. Ulrich, the Government Entomologist, reported that no nymphs of the froghopper, which did such serious damage to the cane fields two years ago, had been found during a recent tour of investigation. He feared, however, that some would appear in June, and he advocated the growing of spores of the Green Muscardine fungus as soon as possible. In the *Bulletin* of the United States Department of Agriculture, No. 156, Mr. J. A. Hyslop refers to the value of the fungus in the following terms:—

"Early in July, 1913, a large amount of the culture of the white-grub fungus (*Metarhizium anisoplia*) or Green Muscardine was sent to the writer by Mr. J. J. Davis. The material was introduced into a field at Nisbet, Pa. On revisiting the inoculated field on July 14 of that year, a larva of *Melanotus* (a wire worm) was found dead and completely covered with a green fungus. This specimen was sent to Mr. Davis, who tentatively determined the fungus as *M. anisoplia*. From this culture the insectary room at Hagerstown Laboratory became infected, and during the past summer (1914), despite all precautions, at least one-half of the Elateridæ in our rearing cages were killed by this disease."

### Coco-nuts and the Bacillus Coli.

At the same meeting Mr. J. B. Rorer, the Government Mycologist, reviewed the preventive work done in Trinidad in the case of Bud-rot, which has now been proclaimed as a disease under the Plant Protection Ordinance which has been put in force. He said that in November, 1909, after visiting a number of coco-nut districts in the island, he reported that bud-rot was quite prevalent but had not assumed serious proportions, and he urged that the Board of Agriculture should undertake the destruction of the dead and dying trees until the Plant Protection Ordinance could be put in a workable condition.

He suggested that each district of the island should be taken in turn, and that all the dead and dying trees should be destroyed and the proprietors be instructed in regard to the dangerous nature of the trouble. On the motion of Mr. Carl de Verteuil, the Board granted \$500 for this purpose. The work was begun at once and put in immediate charge of Mr. Plummer, one of the Agricultural Instructors. The Department began the work on November 30th, 1909, and finished the first round of the island towards the end of June, 1910. A further grant of \$500 was given and a second round was made and finished early in 1911. In all 18,068 trees were cut down, and the parts considered to be a source of infection were buried with temper lime. It was found impossible in all cases to ascertain whether or not the trees which had been long dead had been killed by bud-rot, but he thought it was safe to say that at least 60 to 70 per cent. of deaths were due to bud-rot. The following table shows that the diseased trees were found scattered all over the island:—

	Trees cut down.
Cedros Ward	8,741
Manzanilla, Mayaro and Guayaguayare	6,077
Laventille	1,369
Toco	1,442
Tobago	284
St. James, Four Roads and Chaguaramas	225
Blanchisseuse	215
Tunapuna	15
	18,068

These figures only include trees cut down on places owned by small proprietors, as no work was done on large estates. While at Cedros early in May, he took the opportunity of getting some cultures from diseased trees for the purpose of carrying out further studies of the causative organism. Johnston, who had made an exhaustive study of the disease in Cuba, claimed that it is caused by *Bacillus coli*, and he, Mr. Rorer, would like to prove, if possible, whether or not this was the case in Trinidad. The experiments which he had carried on at Roxborough and at Toco showed that spraying with Bordeaux mixture would prevent the disease from gaining a foothold, but whether or not spraying on a large estate where the disease was not very widespread would pay, he could not say.

At a meeting held at East Grinstead on July 7th under the auspices of the Chichester Diocesan Board of Missions, the Venerable Archdeacon Josa, of British Guiana remarked that all the ladies seemed to know of Demerara, where he had been for 40 years, because of the sugar they now had to pay 3½d. a lb. for. It served them right, too, for we left our colonies to look after themselves and went to Germany for our sugar, and now we had to pay more for it, and his colony was at last making money. He hoped that after the war we would not go back to "that unspeakable country" for our sugar for the sake of ¼d. per lb.

## BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The tenth annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association states that business was considerably affected by the war during the latter part of 1914, cotton having been difficult to sell even at the low prices prevailing. The company's turnover in cotton shows, therefore, a reduction on the 1913 amount as seen by the following statement:—

Year.	Bales.	Value £
1909	20,028	225,078
1910	21,388	296,160
1911	27,673	373,583
1912	40,091	507,122
1913	47,466	661,227
1914	38,691	456,217

During the year the Association has supplied to planters and others, through the engineering department, buildings, machinery, stores, etc., amounting in value to £32,240, as compared with £54,000 in 1913, £60,000 in 1912, and £48,000 in 1911. This part of the business was also considerably curtailed in the second part of the year on account of the war.

The income received during 1914 by way of commission on sales of cotton and seed, and on the supply of stores, etc., amounted to £3,405, as compared with £4,363 in 1913 and £3,796 in 1912.

Large amounts of money have been advanced from time to time for the erection of gineries, for financing crops and actual cotton. Interest is, the report states, charged at a fair rate for such advances, and the total receipts for interest amounted to £4,356 15s. 6d. in 1914, as compared with £3,009 19s. in 1913. The receipts from dividends from shares held in cotton growing companies amounted to £1,820 1s. 7d., as compared with £3,170 0s. 4d. in 1913, the decrease being due to the effects of the war.

### The Results of the Year's Work.

After paying interest on capital borrowed, providing fully for depreciation on plant and writing off the cost of all development work, the Income and Expenditure Account shows a deficiency of £6,748 19s. 5d. The Council have decided to transfer a further sum of £1,000 to the Reserve Account

against advances to planters in respect of crops and machinery, leaving a nett deficiency of £7,748 19s. 5d., as compared with a surplus of £3,670 6s. 11d. in 1913 and a deficiency of £11,354 3s. 1d. in 1912. The Council regret this unsatisfactory result, which is partially due to exceptional difficulties in selling cotton at the end of the year and to the largely increased cost of freight and insurance.

The estimated amount of cotton grown in new fields in the British Empire in the last six years has been as follows:—

1909	28,100	bales of 400 lbs.
1910	43,500	" "
1911	60,800	" "
1912	71,490	" "
1913	72,800	" "
1914	92,350	" "

As regards the West Indies the Council point out that the demand for Sea Island cotton fell away at the outbreak of the war, and it was found necessary to sell the cotton in stock by special arrangement at a price considerably below what had been realised in previous years. In some cases the planters have reduced their acreage under cotton, and are cultivating increased quantities of sugar and other produce, which at present command relatively higher prices than cotton. The Council as already stated in the CIRCULAR have arranged with the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association to guarantee a minimum price for the cotton grown in the different West Indian Islands during the 1915-1916 season, which they think should be satisfactory to planters, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture have been advised and a recommendation sent that the acreage under cotton should not be reduced. The exports for the year ending 30th September, 1914, amounted to 1,905,237 lbs. of Sea Island and 416,125 lbs. of Marie Galante cotton, giving a total of nearly 6,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, and a value of £135,321.

The following statement shows the amount of raw cotton (in bales of 400 lbs. each) consigned to the United Kingdom from each British Possession (except India) and from Portuguese East Africa during the years ending December 31st, 1911 to 1914:—

	1911	1912	1913	1914
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan*	—	—	—	5,422
Gold Coast	24	14	82	41
Southern Nigeria	5,085	9,721	14,413	11,827†
Northern Nigeria	168	1,061	909	—
Total West Africa	5,277	10,796	15,404	13,868
British East Africa and Uganda	16,856	26,831	24,503	24,445
Nyasaland	5,020	6,800	3,414	7,534
Portuguese East Africa	153	3,036	6,468	1,891
Total East Africa	22,029	36,667	34,385	33,870
British West Indies	8,407	7,337	7,474	7,260
British Guiana	1	—	—	—
South Africa	67	342	152	100
Australia	17	13	289	19
New Zealand	59	34	13	24
Sundries	687	474	279	230
Total Sundries	831	863	711	373
Total Bales	36,544	55,663	57,996	60,793

\* Included in Egypt prior to 1914.

† Shown as the Protectorate of Nigeria from 1914.

The exports from the British West Indies in bales of 400 lbs each in each of the four years 1910 to 1913 have been as follows:—

West Indies—	1910	1911	1912	1913
St. Lucia	44	10	12	10
Bahamas	15	33	33	34
Jamaica	33	45	91	173
St. Vincent	1395	1345	1130	1212
Barbados*	1473	1851	1040	1083
Grenada	661	686	951	1002
Leeward Islands*	1783	3085	2680	3060
Trinidad and Tobago	28	15	34	18

Total West Indies — 5345 7670 5971 6592

A steady if slow increase in the capital of the Association is recorded, £4,271 having been received during the year, bringing the total to £474,582 against the nominal capital of £500,000.

### The Annual Meeting.

Presiding at the Annual General Meeting on July 6th, in the absence of Lord Derby, Mr. J. A. Hutton, the Chairman, said that the amount of cotton grown under the auspices of the Association last year was 92,350 bales. They had hoped to reach 100,000 bales, an achievement which had always been regarded as the first object of their efforts; for once that production was reached the rest would follow fast. A better idea of the volume of the Association's business was suggested by the fact that a hundred thousand bales represented a value of about £1,200,000. To have built up a turnover of over a million in a dozen years was no small achievement.

There could not be the least doubt that the need for the work of the Association would be at least as great in the future as it had been in the past. Their efforts must not be relaxed. But, however anxious they might be to help cotton-growing in different parts of the world, they could not evade the limitations of their financial position. The capital subscribed and paid up amounted to £474,000. A sum of £178,000 had been lost and written off, leaving £296,000. But of that there had been locked up in the plant, machinery, and shares of other cotton-growing companies £151,000, leaving a working capital of £145,000. That was not too large a capital for a concern which was turning over the best part of a million pounds per annum. During the last three years the average loss had been £15,000, against which there was the Imperial grant of £10,000 to set off. The net loss for three years was, therefore, £15,000. That position might be faced with a certain amount of equanimity, though, of course, it could not continue for ever. But the Imperial grant expired in March, and he was afraid there would be difficulty in getting it renewed. Every economy was, of course, necessary on the part of the Government; but he believed the withdrawal of this grant would be a very false economy, because, largely by its aid, the Association was bringing prosperity to many different parts of the Empire. At any rate, the position must be faced. If the grant was not renewed the Association would have no

\* Ginned cotton.

choice but to cut down expenses. They could not afford to lose more money in philanthropic work. They would have to run very much on purely business lines, which would mean that bold steps such as those which had been taken in Uganda would be out of the question.

The adoption of the report and balance sheet, moved by the Chairman, was seconded by Mr. B. Crapper, of Oldham, and carried.

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

Mention was made in a recent CIRCULAR of a further gift of £400 for the purchase of a second motor ambulance which the people of Barbados had, at the instance of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore who has now collected over £1,000, presented to the British Red Cross Society. It now appears that the Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the Society are also presenting £500 for a second Trinidad car, which will shortly be ready for delivery. What is now needed even more than ambulances is money for the up-keep of those already provided, which has become a very heavy item of expenditure.

Regarding the first Barbados Ambulance, Driver W. H. O. Coacher wrote to Mr. Aspinall from Boulogne on July 7th:—

Dear Sir,—In answer to your letter dated 11th June, and addressed to Driver S. P. Walker, of the Barbados Motor Ambulance, I, Driver W. H. O. Coacher 171, beg to inform you that I have taken that car over and am now in charge of it. I am writing to let you know that the car is running splendidly, one couldn't wish for it to go better. It has the advantage of a great many cars out here as it is so strongly built. I know the works well where it was built as they are close to my home, so I know what a reliable car I have got. I regret to say it has got one fault, and that is, that I can only take sitting patients one side, but as it is such good and reliable car I am having the other side altered so I can take sitting or lying patients. Trusting that this will meet with your expectations of the car.

I am, yours obediently,

Dr. W. H. O. GOACHER, 171.

The R.M.S.P. *Panama* which reached Tilbury on July 5th brought further welcome gifts of fruit for our sick and wounded, the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee having sent 15 cases of limes and 2 of preserved pineapple, the Dominica Agricultural Society 63 cases and 3 barrels of limes, and Mr. Bryson, of Antigua, one large case of pineapples, for which the island is famous, while Grenada contributed 5 barrels of fruit for the wounded from Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, editor of *The West Indian*, and a case of clothing for Belgian refugees from Mrs. Seton-Browne.

A third consignment of "smokes," comprising 8,000 El Rey cheroots and 4,200 "Lord Kitchener" cigars from the *Daily Gleaner's* "Give a Cigar Fund," started by Mr. M. de Cordova, arrived in Liverpool in the S.S. *Tortuguero* on July 4th, and has been sent to the Military Forwarding Officer at Southampton for despatch to the troops in the trenches, and the S.S. *Coronado* brought 25 cases of grape-fruit from the Jamaica Society which have been sent to the Grand Fleet.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below :*

Austin, Cyril Bruce, (son of Major G. Bruce Austin, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), The Artists' Rifles.  
 Austin, Francis Bruce Preston, (son of Major G. Bruce Austin of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), The Inns of Court O.T.C., (Cavalry).  
 Bagot, 2nd Lieut. W. H., (son of the late Mr. Walter Bagot, of Demerara), 2nd Battalion, 5th Norfolkshire Regiment.  
 Bayley, Lieut. H. H. R., (Jamaica Scholar, son of the late W. R. Bayley, St. Catherine, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps. *At the Dardanelles.*  
 Barrow, Allan, (son of the late Mr. Charles Barrow, Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Beckford, R. P., (Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Blagrove, Colonel Henry J., C.B., (Jamaica estates' proprietor), Commandant of the Prisoners of War Camp, Leigh, Lancashire.  
 Boyle, Captain Ernest, (of Good Hope Plantation, Jamaica), Honourable Artillery Company. *At the front.*  
 Chandler, Mr. John, (son of the Rev. J. H. T. Chandler, Highgate St. Mary), Kitchener's Army.  
 Clarke, Sergeant G., (son of Mr. T. F. Clarke, Kingston, Jamaica), St. Andrew's Company, Jamaica Reserve Regiment, now has a commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 Conacher, James, (brother of Mr. Walter Conacher, manager of Bendals' Sugar Factory, Antigua) 8th Black Watch.  
 Conacher, John, (brother of Mr. Walter Conacher, manager of Bendals' Sugar Factory, Antigua), 1st Canadian Contingent, R.C.H.A.  
 Cox, 2nd Lieut. G. V., (late Lieut. Kingston Infantry Volunteers, Jamaica), 9th Battalion Shropshire Regiment.  
 de Valda, F. W., (late of Jamaica), Sergeant Motor Transport Service, Army Service Corps.  
 Dias, Mr. Stephen S., (son of Mr. D. M. Dias, Spanish Town, Jamaica), 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
 Egan, Lieut. Dr. O'Dowd, (late Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Esdaile, Lieut. P. R. K., (of Dominica), Army Service Corps.  
 Eutemey, Mido George, (of Kingston, Jamaica), 9th Reserve Cavalry Regiment, now attached to the King's Own 3rd Hussars.  
 Farquharson, W. H., (son of Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Retreat Estate, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Henderson, Lieut. Arthur T., (son of the Rev. Geo. E. Henderson, Brown's Town, Jamaica), Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.  
 Hobbs, Lieut. Dr. John, (late District Medical Officer, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Isaacs, Lieut. Anthony, (son of Mr. Rolph Isaacs, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Kernahan, Captain J. A. A., (son of Mr. W. S. Kernahan, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), Indian Medical Service, 8th Gurkhas.  
 Lucie-Smith, J. D., Lieut. Kingston Infantry Volunteers, (son of the late Postmaster of Jamaica), has obtained a commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 Lyon, Lloyd D., (of Kingston, Jamaica), 6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Rifles, Canada.  
 Lyon, Keith, (of Kingston, Jamaica), 6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Rifles, Canada.  
 Mais, 2nd Lieut. H. R., (Bachelor of Civil Engineering, McGill University, Canada, and son of Mr. C. Leslie

Mais, Kingston, Jamaica), Fortress Company, Royal Engineers.  
 Manley, N. W., (Rhodes Scholar, Jamaica), has obtained a Commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 McIntosh, Lancelot O., (Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Mills, David, (Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Morales, Mr. E., (son of Mr. E. M. Morales, of the P.W.D., Montego Bay, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Neish, Lieut. Dr. W. D., (Spanish Town, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Nourse, 2nd Lieut. Leonard F., (of Ashbury, Barbados, son of Colonel A. H. Nourse), The Royal Marines.  
 Pemberton, 2nd Lieut. H., (late of Kingston, Jamaica), Army Service Corps.  
 Purchas, C. M. G., (son of Mr. Claude Purchas, Inspector of Police, Jamaica), Intelligence Corps, 5th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.  
 Smith, J., (Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Thelwall, Captain J. B., R.N.R., (late Harbour Master, British Guiana), Army Clothing Department, Olympia.  
 Tilley, R. L., (Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Warder, 2nd Lieut. George, (of the Public General Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica), Warwickshire Regiment.  
 Whyte, Lieut. Dr. Angus, (late G.M.O., British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.

### Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT FREDERICK ARTHUR KEMBLE, of the Suffolk Regiment, who, we regret to state, was killed in action in Flanders on May 25th, was the son of Mr. Frederick Kemble, of St. Andrew, Jamaica.  
 IVAN COURTENAY LYON, of Kingston, Jamaica, was with the 6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Rifles, Canada, and took part in the battle for Hill 60, where he was wounded. He recovered, however, and returned to the trenches, where he was killed on June 11th.

### Wounded.

Bateman, Lieut. B. M. B., (son of Lieut.-Colonel B. M. Bateman), 108th Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Seriously wounded at Ypres.  
 Rodriguez, Arthur Melville, (son of Mr. J. T. Rodriguez, merchant, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), has been wounded at the front.  
 Bascombe, Ernest, (of San Fernando, Trinidad), has been wounded at the front.  
 McPhail, 2nd Lieut., (son of Mr. J. H. McPhail, of Tulloch, St. Catherine, Jamaica), R.G.A. Has been wounded at the front.  
 McPhail, Lieut. D. R., (nephew of Mr. John McPhail, St. Catherine, Jamaica), 5th South Lancashire Regiment. Has been wounded at the front.

### Missing.

Richards, Corporal H. D., (of Kingston, Jamaica), 15th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 48th Highlanders, Canadian Contingent.  
 Lyon, Louis J., (Kingston, Jamaica), 6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal Rifles, Canada. Prisoner at Meschide, Germany.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Bryan, Major H., (Jamaica) transferred from the Manchester Regiment to the Northumberland Fusiliers.  
 Carver, 2nd Lieut. H. C. Cowell, (son of Mr. J. Cowell Carver, of Kingston, Jamaica), 9th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment.  
 Davidson, 2nd Lieut. D. Kirke, (born at Kingston, Jamaica), 14th Service Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.



Fox, 2nd Lieut. H. R. L., R.E., (son of Mr. Isaac Fox, of Vere, Jamaica), attached to the 11th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters.

Gould, 2nd Lieut. H. C., (son of Mr. H. C. Gould, Kingston, Jamaica), 14th Royal Fusiliers, now serving with the West African Field Force.

Mossman, Mr. Bertie Allan, (son of Mr. H. L. Mossman, Agricultural Instructor, St. Catherine, Jamaica), 2nd King Edward's Horse.

Mossman, Mr. Ellis Leopold, (son of Mr. H. L. Mossman, Agricultural Instructor, St. Catherine, Jamaica), 2nd King Edward's Horse.

[Copies of the last sixteen WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS containing in all 1,171 names are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, price 1s. each, or post free 1s. 1d.]

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

An important subject in connection with agriculture is the different power that soils possess of retaining moisture and the salts which form the special constituents of artificial manures. M. Pierre de Sornay, assistant chemist to the Mauritius Department of Agriculture, has published an interesting contribution to the matter in the form of the results of experiments he has recently made in this direction.

\* \* \*

As regards water, M. de Sornay found that taken eight samples of soils, the initial water content averages 19 per cent., with figures ranging from 17.5 per cent. to 20.5 per cent. When saturated with water, these soils contained on the average 40.2 per cent. of water, with extremes of 38.3 per cent. and 42.1 per cent. Even after a severe drought, the soils contain water, and the amount of rain required to completely saturate such a soil is a fall of 2.5 inches.

\* \* \*

In experiments with sulphate of ammonia, it was found that where the soil was treated with a solution of the salt in the proportion of 0.5 grm. to 1 kilogramme of soil, after two hours contact quantities varying from 0 to 74 per cent. were retained, with practically no different results after 24 hours' standing. The soil which retained none of the sulphate was a sandy soil. Where the salt was added to the top layer of soil, and subsequently watered, the whole of the ammonia was retained by the soil, and practically all the sulphuric acid, the highest amount of the latter dissolved out being 6.2 per cent.

\* \* \*

PROCEEDING in the same way with nitrate of potash and sulphate of potash, it was found that when nitrate of potash was incorporated with the whole soil from 46 to 71.3 per cent was retained by the soil after two hours contact, and 54.3 to 78.2 per cent. after 24 hours contact, and the whole of the potash retained when the salt was added to the top layer of the soil whether the exposure was 2 hours, 26 hours or 48 hours. The longer the exposure before washing, however, the larger the amount of the nitric acid retained. With the sulphate of potash,

in the first case 67.3 to 85.8 per cent. of potash was retained, and in the top layer treatment the whole of it, the sulphuric acid also being almost entirely retained by the soil. With sodium nitrate added to the top layer of soil, after 50 hours, 70.8 to 74 per cent. was retained in the soil on washing. With a superphosphate solution added to the whole soil, and well agitated with it, from 30.8 to 88.3 per cent. was retained after two hours contact, and from 42.2 to 100 per cent. after 48 hours.

\* \* \*

COMPLETELY to judge of the results, the figures obtained from the treatment of the several soils experimented with should be compared with the analyses of the soils, which are given by M. de Sornay, and the reader is referred to the paper in question for these details. Speaking generally M. de Sornay concludes that the absorption of free or alkaline bases always takes place, and that its intensity varies according to the nature of the soil.

### AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture of British Guiana on June 8th, Professor Harrison said that the Governor had approved a reduction in the price of Hevea rubber stumps to \$12 per thousand which he hoped would encourage rubber planting. The price of plants in baskets would remain the same as before, or \$24 per thousand.

\* \* \*

His Excellency said that though no one could be recommended to plant Para rubber upon the heavy lands close to the coast, where there was a saline sub-soil, he did not think it was realised that it was fairly proved that Para rubber would grow as well in British Guiana as in the Malay Archipelago, and it seemed regrettable that up to the present no planter or company had adequately taken up this cultivation. Though labour was more expensive in Guiana than in the East, against that planters in the Colony were close to their markets and they could get very accessible land for practically nothing.

\* \* \*

At the same meeting Professor Harrison submitted the following figures showing the acreage under agricultural products in the Colony in 1914-15 as compared with the preceding year:—

	English acres.	Increase on 1913-14.	Decrease on 1913-14.
Canes	73,108	412	—
Rice	47,937	11,454	—
Coco-nuts	15,894	1,008	—
Cacao	2,154	498	—
Coffee	4,326	1,002	—
Rubber	1,962	743	—
Limbs	690	—	398
Maize, etc., ground provisions	21,063	2,604	—

With regard to rice he mentioned that, as 6,624 acres were planted with two crops, the total area of rice reaped during 1914-15 was therefore 53,661 acres.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

As the R.M.S. *Danube* only reached Gravesend at 9 p.m. on Sunday July 12th, it is not possible to publish in the present CIRCULAR extracts from the letters received by her.

\* \* \*

CASSAVA and tapioca flour have now been added to the list of articles the export of which to all foreign ports in Europe other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Spain and Portugal, is prohibited.

\* \* \*

MR. C. R. VEZEY, who was for many years in the Passenger Department of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and has recently been in Egypt, has been appointed the Company's representative in Georgetown, Demerara.

\* \* \*

MR. J. RIBBON, who, as a member of the Society of Yorkshiremen in London, has been looking after the welfare of our wounded northcountrymen, has been made an honorary member of the 2nd Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

\* \* \*

MR. CHARLES DODD, for many years senior partner of William Hewitt and Co., of Mincing Lane, has decided to retire on account of ill-health, and Mr. C. G. Dodd having also retired, the business will be carried on by the remaining partner, Mr. A. J. Sellers.

\* \* \*

THOUGH Jamaica will not officially participate this year in the Toronto National Exhibition, Mr. C. S. Pickford, of Messrs. Pickford and Black, has been asked by several merchants in that island to take charge of an exhibit. Mr. Pickford will also be looking after exhibits from the Bahamas and Antigua, and it is hoped that in spite of the war there will be a good exhibition.

\* \* \*

THE marriage of Alastair Macgregor, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Macgregor Frame, to Rosina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Giovanni Mareone, was solemnised in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, on May 27th. The bride was given away by her father, and the bridegroom was attended by Mr. Foster Ware as best man. Mr. G. Macgregor Frame who went to America to attend the ceremony returned to London last Sunday in the best of health.

\* \* \*

AN unrecorded triumph for British arms—and fists—took place recently in Mexico City. The members of the German Club there decided to celebrate the *Lusitania* "victory" by a suitable banquet. Proceedings were going swimmingly, the Kaiser was being exultantly "hoed" and England "straffed," when the festivities were rudely interrupted by the members of the English Club who made a reconnaissance in force. The Germans were soundly thrashed and ejected from the Club premises.

The *Wine and Spirit Trade Record* believes that trade opinion would be favourable to the special consideration now afforded to rum under the Immature Spirits Bill being continued. So far as the main object of the Act is concerned, namely to restrict the consumption of young spirit alleged to be deleterious to the consumer, there is, says our contemporary, little or no reason to include rum, as in such respect it no more offends at an age of nine months than it does at three years. "Indeed, at no time have we heard of rum being included in the popular outcry against immature spirit, although it has never been pretended that it reached the general consumer with any particular period of maturation."

\* \* \*

A CORRESPONDENT writes: The following notice is taken from the advertisement columns of a Trinidad newspaper, in which it has been appearing for about two months:—

#### ANTI ALCOHOLIC CLUB FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE.

Anti-Alcohol	.....	\$1.00
Collected at a recent Smoking Concert	.....	.21
Anti-Alcohol	.....	1.00
A. F. Gittens	.....	.24
Abdon Karame, first monthly contribution	.....	.93

For the first four weeks "Anti-Alcohol's" dollar stood alone. Then came the proceeds of the smoking concert .21! Anti-Alcohol took courage with the fresh hope engendered and planked down another \$1. Then contributions flowed in with the result shown above.

\* \* \*

ON July 8th, Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., retired on pension from the Colonial Civil Service after thirty-three years of activity in the British West Indies. His public career began in St. Lucia in 1882 when he acted for a while as Revenue Officer. In the following year he was appointed Inspector of Schools in St. Vincent, becoming Headmaster of the Grammar School in that island in 1887. Two years later he was made Inspector of Schools in the Leeward Islands, and in 1900, after the hurricane of 1899, he was appointed Commissioner of Montserrat. From the West Indian "Emerald Island" he was transferred to Turks and Caicos Islands in 1906, and the success of his administration of that outlying dependency of Jamaica was demonstrated by its greatly improved financial position at the close of his tenure of office in 1914. Mr. Watkins was a keen volunteer, having been Adjutant of the St. Kitts-Nevis Local Forces for several years. At present he is employed at temporary work at the Postal Censorship Department at the War Office. It is worthy of note that Mr. Watkins' great-grandfather took over the command of the *Blanche* after the death of Captain Faulkner in a memorable engagement with the *Pique* on January 5th, 1795.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

LOVERS of the Principality are glad to notice that in spite of the attempts made a few years ago by a prominent statesman to secure the substitution of the daffodil for the leek as the emblem of Wales, it is the historic vegetable that figures on the uniform of the newly raised Welsh Guards, and not the flower. The brass raised on the service caps looks, however, strangely like a sugar-cane, and not a few people seeing it for the first time must have thought that the wearers formed the advance guard of a contingent from a tropical sugar colony.

\* \* \*

THE fortnight has been marked by a great "Recruiting Rally" in London. Accompanied by Lady Ashmore's recruiting bands, whose members are identified by a green and red check band round their hats, speakers—and among them Corporal Dwyer, London's latest V.C., and Sergeant O'Leary, V.C.—have proceeded to every suitable spot including the Mansion House, the Royal Exchange, Trafalgar Square and, of course, the Parks, and have addressed enthusiastic meetings. The results are believed to have been eminently satisfactory though no statistics as to the number of recruits have been published.

\* \* \*

JULY 7th was widely advertised in London as "France's Day." The Tricolour floated over many of the Clubs; special services were held in Westminster Abbey and in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, and collections were made in the streets towards the French Red Cross Funds. Enthusiasm was, however, damped by the wretched weather, frequent showers falling throughout the day, and by the intimation conveyed to the public in a manifesto published in the Press by rival organisers that July 14th, France's National Fête day, was the real "day."

\* \* \*

THE new War Loan, particulars of which were published in last CIRCULAR, has been a constant topic of conversation during the fortnight, and there is abundant evidence that the proletariat appreciates the opportunity of furnishing "Silver Bullets" on a remunerative basis. In a four-page leaflet, couched in popular language, which is being widely circulated the man in the street is told how they could and should save by eating less meat, being careful with their bread, avoiding waste, etc., and it is pointed out that if our 45,000,000 people each saved on an average 2s. 6d. a week we should save nearly £300,000,000 a year.

\* \* \*

THE historic Guildhall has been the scene of two memorable events during the fortnight, the unveiling of the bust of Mr. Chamberlain by Mr. Balfour on July 8th, and Lord Kitchener's great recruiting

speech on the following day. On the occasion of the unveiling, which took place in the Library, notable speeches were made by Mr. Balfour, Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Bonar Law, which were loudly applauded. It is doubtful if Cog and Magog ever looked down on a more enthusiastic scene than when Lord Kitchener was welcomed to the City. Every inch of space was occupied and so great was the attendance that it was necessary to hold an overflow meeting outside. It would be a happy idea if replicas of the bust of our greatest Colonial Minister could be secured for the Council Chambers in the West Indies.

\* \* \*

PEDESTRIANS in Cannon Street now have an opportunity of testing rubber as a pavement, a few square yards of the plantation variety having been laid down by the Malay Government outside their offices in Cannon Street by permission of the Corporation. The experiment will be watched with interest; but unless the rubber can be coloured and better laid than it has been in this instance, others than shareholders in rubber companies will not view with satisfaction the prospect of a realisation of Sir Henry Blake's dream of a rubberised London. The efficacy of rubber as a roadway for vehicular traffic has been demonstrated for the last thirty or forty years at Euston Station, where it is laid under the magnificent entrance arch.

\* \* \*

A SUPPLEMENT to the *London Gazette* published on July 6th, contained an Order in Council defining the areas in which the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor is to be controlled by the State "on the ground that war material is being made, loaded, unloaded, and dealt with therein." The areas include Bristol, Newhaven, Southampton, Newport, Cardiff, Barry, Barrow-in-Furness, Bexley, Dartford, Erith, Crayford, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Bootle, Wallasey, Southport, Kirkdale, Ormskirk, Prescott, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tynemouth, Gateshead, South Shields, Sunderland, Houghton-le-Spring, Seaham Harbour, Castle Eden, Stockton, Darlington, Wallsend, Thornaby and Yarm.

\* \* \*

THE stern determination with which the country is now facing the war is exemplified by the complete absence of "mafficking." In marked contrast with Berlin, where hunting is compulsorily hung out and bells rung at the least provocation, London takes our successes calmly and soberly. In the first dark days of August processions used to parade the streets nightly with flags and banners. But Londoners are now too busy for such demonstrations. They have got into their stride and are at last concentrating their efforts on bringing the war to a decisive conclusion with victory for the British arms. To this must be attributed the complete absence of flag-waving when the gratifying news was received that the German flag had been lowered in South-West Africa, the enemy's first and greatest colony.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Panama* left Barbados very late. She did not sail from Carlisle Bay until June 20, or many days after the scheduled date. To make matters worse she also lost much time on the voyage to Tilbury, which occupied no fewer than sixteen days, which must be almost a record for a passenger steamer between the West Indies and England this century. There can be no mistaking the feeling of dissatisfaction which these constant delays are causing. After making every allowance for the inconvenience which the contracting company is suffering through having been moved from its home port and through so many of its officers and men having joined the Colours, it is felt that it is not giving the Colonies the consideration to which they are entitled. This is reflected by the letters received by the mail. The following notes are extracted from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

#### ANTIGUA—No white gloves for the Judge.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, JUNE 10th.—This steamer will take away all the cotton awaiting shipment. The weather has been showery and the young crop is coming on, and promises well for next year. The Circuit Court is sitting and dealing with the largest calendar for a number of years. It includes some serious cases of cutting and wounding. Mr. T. V. Best, Acting Governor, is spending a little time in St. Kitts, and the Hon. W. H. Whyham is Acting Governor. A Montserrat cricket team has been testing conclusions with the Antigua Cricket Club, which it has beaten. An intercolonial lawn tennis match has also been played, but this was won by the home players. The engagement is announced of Miss Nugent, daughter of Mr. O. Nugent to Mr. Howell, late cashier of the Colonial Bank. Mr. Reginald Branch, son of the Venerable Archdeacon S. R. Branch has gone to the front. Small as the island is, Antigua is doing its share. The writer gave a lantern lecture on the war in St. Philips last month. The people appeared intensely interested. They follow the war day by day with the greatest concern, crowds gathering at the Office to have the latest news read to them. Dr. Francis Watts has paid us a visit for a few days to attend the meetings of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Granary Board. He also met those interested in the cotton factory and central factory matters.

#### BARBADOS Mr. H. Austin Senior M.C.P. for Bridgetown

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G.—We greatly appreciate all that you have done for our young men who have gone home to join the army. Last week twelve young men left here by the S.S. *Crown of Granada* with the intention of enlisting in the British Army. On Tuesday, June 15th, the Session of the Legislature for the ensuing year was inaugurated in the Council Chamber by His Excellency the Governor, who delivered the usual speech from the throne. There are many important matters to be considered by the Legislature, the chief of them being the question of fresh taxation to meet an expected deficit in revenue. The weather is still unfavourable for reaping, but the recent heavy rains are extremely good for the young crop.

Mr. H. B. G. Austin, son of the late Hon. Gardiner Austin, who had been requisitioned by an influential body of merchants and others to allow himself to be nominated

as one of the members of the House of Assembly for Bridgetown, was duly elected on June 14th. The voting for the two members was as follows:—

Mr. H. B. G. Austin	218	votes
Mr. H. W. Lofty	208	„
Mr. J. Edwin Croncy	197	„

Mr. Austen thus succeeds Mr. Lofty as senior member for Bridgetown. In the other constituencies there were no contests and the former members were re-elected.

The mail edition of the *Agricultural Reporter* gives a report of a meeting of the Legislative Council and old members of the House of Assembly on June 1, at which on the motion of Dr. C. E. Gooding, amended on the motion of Mr. Sealy, and seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was resolved

That this meeting is of opinion that, immediately on the opening of the new Legislative Session, the Governor in Executive Committee should ask the Legislature to vote the sum of £2,500 to be expended in paying the passage money and other necessary expenses incidental to the landing in England of as many recruits to the British Army as may be sent for the amount mentioned.

The obituary includes the death of Mr. I. Sinderly Bowen at the age of 76 years, which took place at "Glen Avon," Stratclyde, on May 25th. Mr. Bowen, who was the father of Mr. R. F. S. Bowen, Superintendent of Public Works, was a member of the firm of Bowen and Sons, booksellers and stationers, until 1884, when he started a business of his own. He was a musician of distinction, and one of the leading organists in the colony. We regret to state that Lady Greaves, wife of Chief Justice Sir William Herbert Greaves died quite suddenly on Sunday morning, June 6th, at her residence "Stratford Lodge, Two Mile Hill.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—Mr. Cannon M.C.P. for Georgetown.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JUNE 12th.—The weather during the fortnight has been fine with occasional showers, except on the 7th inst., when we had another downpour—over three inches were recorded in town and neighbourhood, and over five inches were recorded on some places on the East Coast. I regret to advise the death of two colonists, Mr. J. R. Patoir, of East Lethian, Berbice, at the age of 67, and Mr. W. F. B. Harris, late of Sproston's Ltd., at the age of 57. A meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held on the 8th inst., at which the Governor presided. There was a contested election for the Georgetown seat in the Court of Policy between Mr. N. Cannon and the Hon. G. R. Garnett on the 10th inst. Mr. Cannon was returned with a majority of 510 votes, he having received 846 and Mr. Garnett 336 votes. This is the largest number of votes, and the highest majority ever recorded for any candidate. There was a special meeting of the Court of Policy and Combined Court held on the 4th inst. to consider the Governor's proposal to send a Demerara contingent for service in the present war. The proposal received the full support of the Court. The Government asked for an additional \$16,000 for the Steamer Service which was granted after some severe criticism by the electives. We had a meeting of the Planters' Association on the 7th inst., when the position of the Immigration Fund Account was discussed. The balance at the credit of the fund at 31st March, 1914, was \$168,000, and this has been increased during the year ending 31st March. The figures are, however, not yet available, but in the meantime it is proposed to write to the Government pointing out the large balance at credit and asking that the indenture fee should be reduced. Dr. Wise's proposed sewerage scheme for Georgetown has been published as a Combined Court paper. The customary holiday was observed here on the King's Birth-

day, but there were none of the usual ceremonies, these having been dispensed with in accordance with the wish of His Majesty. The Governor provided a treat for the inmates of the Alms House, and children of the Orphan Asylum.

**DOMINICA—The future of the mail service.**

MR. E. A. AGAR, JUNE 11th.—In your report of the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Abbot's remarks on the present condition of the shipping facilities were especially interesting. Freight rates at the moment are "wicked," but just now it is impossible to say how far the increase is justifiable or not, and any attempt at improvement is out of the question until the war is over. Mr. Abbot says that the high freights are driving our trade to America, but then why does he advocate a steamship line run outside the Shipping Conference, for presumably lower freights to New York? Does he not mean London? If it were possible to combine shippers here, much might be done to lower freights undoubtedly, the amount of freight offering during the year can be very accurately estimated, and we could ask for tenders for the whole carriage in the same way that tenders are asked for mails. As trade increased it would surely pay better for all parties if the present lines running here put on fresh ships than that competing companies should come in, meaning a loss of cargo to the old lines and then a rise in freights to us, as the new line came into the Conference. It looks as if there was not sufficient freight for more lines, and that we had to pay for unnecessary boats rather than allow the older companies to have any competition. But nothing can be done unless we can be assured that the West Indies will stand absolutely united.

The Legislative Council met on the 4th, and the Administrator made a quite excellent speech. Mr. Mahaffy has made it quite clear that he intends building roads that will last and not roads that require rebuilding every few years. This will be a slow process, but if we see such work steadily progressing we shall be patient enough. We have waited long for a definite road policy and it appears that at last we have one, and that the carrying out of it has actually been begun. Of course it won't meet with the approval of every one. In a small community like this individual requirements are apt to assume an undue proportion to the whole. The Revenue for the past year came within measurable distance of £50,000. A good deal of rain has fallen during the past fortnight and the lime crop is beginning to mature rapidly. In place of Mr. Wigley, who has accepted a magistracy in St. Kitts, Mr. Jones, Curator of the Botanical Gardens, has been appointed temporarily to an official seat on the Legislative Council. A better man could not be found.

Mr. Justice Parker, after being in the Leeward Islands for seven years, is shortly to go to Grenada as Chief Justice. I believe there are special and awful penalties attaching to the crime of criticising a judge, otherwise I should like to say some good things of him.

**GRENADA—The island's cacao shipments.**

MR. C. FALCONER ANTON, JUNE 12th.—Including a shipment of 373 bags to be made to-morrow, the shipments of cacao to the 13th inst. will amount to 56,428 bags. To the corresponding period of 1914, the figures were 63,130 bags, so that the shipments are 6,702 bags short of last crop, so far. We were honoured by a visit on the 8th inst. from the French cruiser . . . She arrived about midday, and left the same evening.

There is to be a special general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society at the end of this month

or early in July. His Excellency the Governor will preside and present the Society's Silver Cup to Mr. Joseph Marcheau, of Mon Plaisir, in the parish of St. John, the winner of the Cup presented by Sir James Hayes Sadler in connection with the Cacao Prize Holdings Competitions last year. The Hon. P. J. Dean, who, as you are no doubt aware, has been very ill, is, I am very pleased to say, much better, and hopes to be able to leave for England at an early date, probably by next mail. Mr. A. H. Richard, manager of the Colonial Bank, and Mrs. Richard, left by the S.S. *Mayaro* on the 3rd inst., for England via New York, for a holiday. Mr. C. V. C. Horne is acting as manager, and Mr. N. Peyton Birch, of the Barbados Branch, is acting as accountant in Mr. Horne's place. Mr. Fraser, the accountant of the Royal Bank of Canada, went on leave about six or eight weeks ago, on account of ill-health, and Mr. K. Hobson, from Trinidad, has replaced him. It is rumoured that Mr. W. A. Clarke, the manager, is to be transferred as acting manager of the Barbados Branch, but the name of his successor here is not known, as far as I am aware.

**JAMAICA—Mr. J. B. Lucie Smith's death.**

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, JULY.—The weather during the month of May was extremely oppressive. The maximum temperature was 91°F., the minimum 67.9°F., and the mean 80.4°F. The total rainfall in Kingston was 3.08 inches, the average for the past 40 years being 4.63 inches. The maximum velocity of the wind was 35 miles an hour on the 7th. The War Funds opened in Jamaica now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Relief War Fund ( <i>Gleaner</i> )	9,182	16	3
Central War Fund	11,788	16	11
Aeroplane Fund	113	19	3
"Give a Cigar Fund"	259	4	2
Belgian Orphan Fund	41	15	5
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	1,729	3	6½
" " " (Clerks' shilling fund)	11	3	6
" " " (Small planters' fund)	2	12	0
Suffering Jews in Poland Fund	116	3	6
Khaki Prisoners Fund	11	6	0

It is hoped that not fewer than a thousand men will be enabled to go to Europe as the colony's war contingent.

Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, the ex-Postmaster for Jamaica, died on July 3rd. Mr. R. H. Fletcher has been appointed Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department in the place of Mr. Wolfe, who has been named Postmaster.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, MORANT BAY, JUNE 14th.—Conditions generally are quiet here. By voluntary subscriptions £3,000 has been subscribed for the purpose of sending a contingent from Jamaica. General opinion appears to be that the island should do this by extra taxation instead of voluntary subscriptions, but evidently His Excellency the Governor is not in favour of the latter course, as he has subscribed £50 himself. We have been expecting that another steamer would have been appointed to take away our produce to England, but, so far nothing has been heard of this. We are having the best seasons that we have had since the earthquake, and with a continuance of these seasons our crops for next year will be better than the past seven years.

HON. BERKSFORD GOSSET, JUNE 17th.—We have had nice season rains in April and May in the South-East of the island, but only moderate rains in the West End. A fine four day rain has just fallen in the Blue Mountains, of 16 inches, the best for several years past for June. The coffee crops in the Blue Mountains are good, but we find it most difficult to get freight to Liverpool, but hope the Harrison and Leyland lines will supply our wants. The demand for

bananas seems rather limited, owing I suppose to the war. With improved prices for sugar and rum and good season rains, the outlook for the sugar estates is much improved. Butchers' cattle have been in fair demand, but prices for fat stock have ruled rather low, the consumption has increased all over the island. The penkeepers have met low prices with increased production of the hardier breeds of cattle. This has doubled the consumption of beef in the last 36 years, but lowered the price of fat cattle.

#### **MONTSERRAT—The Guaranteed Cotton Prices.**

MR. K. P. PENCHORN, JUNE 11th.—The fact that the Fine Cotton Spinners' Association have guaranteed a minimum of 1s. 6d. per pound for St. Kitts and St. Vincent cotton, as against 1s. 2d. for the product of other islands does not tend to enhance the value of Montserrat cotton, and one cannot avoid the conclusion that there is more in the differentiation than meets the eye. St. Kitts could leave cotton alone and do well with cane, while St. Vincent gets such poor returns per acre that without high prices the planters would stop planting. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that these facts have had their influence. I do not believe it possible that cotton grown from the same strain of seed as that planted in St. Vincent or St. Kitts, and treated in the same way could be worth 3d. per pound less. We are having glorious weather with constant showers and plenty of sunshine. The start with cotton is very satisfactory and the germination of the seed all that could be expected. There is a report that the cotton worm has made its appearance in the north of the island, and if it were true it is the earliest visitation we have had yet. It is said that Captain Elgee is likely to be returning to England to rejoin the army. We shall be sorry to lose him, though loyalty is strong here, and if he is wanted at the front we cannot wish him to stay. The Hon. R. F. Dyett, Assistant Treasurer, is temporarily Acting Commissioner. We are at last getting away a few bales of cotton per the R.M.S. *Italania*, which takes 30 bales of 300 pounds each on behalf of Messrs. Sendall and Wade.

#### **ST. VINCENT—A reduced cotton acreage.**

MR. W. N. SANDS, JUNE 12th.—The weather continues seasonable and planters are able to make good progress with the planting up of their lands. Present indications appear to point to a considerable reduction in the acreage planted in cotton, but an extension of the planting of Indian corn, peas and beans. The Government is erecting a kiln-drier for Indian corn at the Central Ginnery, so as to prepare properly the corn for export. Corn will be purchased at the ginnery on a profit-sharing basis in the same manner as cotton, or dried for planters at small cost. His Honour Mr. A. de Freitas, Chief Justice, arrived from St. Lucia by last mail and is administering the Government until the arrival on the 15th instant of Mr. Popham Lobb from Bermuda.

#### **TOBAGO—An appreciation of the Committee's work.**

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JUNE 18th.—The Committee's recent action with regard to rum shows how valuable it is for the British West Indies to have a representative body in London to deal with matters as they develop, and not months afterwards when protests are no better than waste paper. I take this stand when advocating membership, and feel sure that the Committee's influence will increase as time goes on. I have also a strong belief in Confederation, and never before felt the need of it as now when there is so much disjointed talk about a West India Contingent. What is wanted is a West India Regiment with companies from the various islands, and there would be no difficulty in raising one or two thousand men for service in Egypt

or Africa, where the climate would best suit and where just as good work is being done in this World's War as anywhere else on the battle line. I am able to report most favourable weather, light showers to soak the earth, and sunshine between to enable planting to be carried on. Weeds are growing furiously, and there will be abundance of work keeping them down during the next few months. The flush of cacao flowers after the April rains have mostly dried up, but the trees are again flowering, and it is hoped these will hold and give fine crops in November and December. Coco-nuts are fruiting well and limes are ripening, and perhaps some may find their way to the Red Cross hospitals. As usual at this season there are cases of "climatic" fever and mild dysentery, but nothing serious. If ordinary precautions are taken, there is exceedingly little risk of health giving way in Tobago.

#### **TRINIDAD—The Colony's gift of cacao.**

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JUNE 9th.—The solution of the difficulty with regard to rum under the Immature Spirits Bill is satisfactory, and no doubt the efforts of the West India Committee contributed to this result. The misunderstanding about the raw cacao gift was unfortunate, but no one in Trinidad was to blame. The colony offered £30,000 and this was accepted. It was only when about the half had been delivered that any difficulty arose as to the Government taking the balance. If half of the value of the gift was required for the process of manufacture it is a pity that the colony was not told so, so that the money could have been spent locally, there being several people who make excellent preparations of cocoa and chocolate.

A good deal of local feeling has been aroused by the news that active steps are being taken in Demerara, Jamaica and Barbados, with the support and sanction of the Home Authorities, to send contingents for Kitchener's Army. The Port-of-Spain *Gazette* publishes a report of a meeting of the Court of Policy at Georgetown on the subject, and, in the absence of official action, calls for the names of those willing to serve King and Country at the front, an appeal which is already being largely responded to. Meanwhile our Executive is silent, and once again Trinidad, which was formerly accustomed to lead, maintains its more recent position as a cautious, if not timid, follower of more active neighbours.

The locusts have once again appeared in immense numbers on the opposite coast of Venezuela, and some have already managed to fly the intervening distance to Patos and Chacabocate, whilst myriads have floated up to the islands, having apparently been drowned in the attempt to cross. Vigorous steps are being taken to meet the invasion if it assumes a serious aspect. They consume almost everything in the way of cultivation that comes in their way. The last plague of the kind was, I think, in 1885, and was successfully dealt with. The experience then gained should make the task easier now.

It is astonishing how many young Trinidadians have found their way to the front. Of some we only hear when their names are added to the Roll of Honour, thus Mr. J. L. Rodriguez yesterday received a cablegram to the effect that his son, Arthur Melville Rodriguez, had been wounded, and to-day the news came of the wounding of Ernest Bascombe. On June 11th at a meeting of the Agricultural Society His Excellency Sir George Le Hunte explained the situation with regard to the proposed contingent. He said that he had made efforts on behalf of Trinidad a considerable time ago, but the conditions attaching to acceptance were not favourable and he had not followed up the matter. He had since been in communication with British Guiana and Jamaica with a view to sending home a joint con-  
tin-

gent. He said there was not a word of truth in the statement in the newspapers that Trinidad had been disgraced and had been given the go-by.

JUNE 18th.—The Annual Speech Day and Distribution of Prizes at the Queen's Royal College was held on Wednesday afternoon. Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances that during the great part of last year the school had been without the services of its second and fourth masters, Messrs Hancock and R. A. Low, who had been acting respectively as Inspector of Schools and Public Censor of Telegrams, the results to both masters and boys are highly commendable. Mr. Burslem, the Principal, may well feel a justifiable pride in being able to announce that "During the last five years of the ten prizes offered to the best senior or junior boy in these Cambridge examinations the College had won three, a record which, I believe, has not been surpassed by any school in England, and of which we are very proud." Needless to say the Governor, who is highly popular with the boys, and received an enthusiastic reception, did not fail to award the due meed of praise to those who so well deserved it. A noticeable feature of the function was the large number of boys smart in the khaki of the Cadet Corps.

Debentures have just been issued to the subscribers of the £100,000 Trinidad Government 3 per cent. loan. Our merchant bankers, Gordon, Grant and Co., Ltd., head the list with £25,000. Mr. Francois Agostini follows with £22,000, then come the Colonial and Royal Banks who apply for £10,000 each, and a few smaller ones bring the total to £69,780. It is "up to" the other two banks, who, by the way, have the colony's account and do its business, to bring their subscription up to that of Gordon's Bank, and close the list creditably.

#### DEATH.

Patoir. On Sunday, May 30th, 1915, at East Lothian, Berhice, I. E. A. Patoir, in his 67th year.

#### OUR LIBRARY.

The Editor is glad to receive copies of publications relating to the colonies, photographs of West Indian scenery, or of local events of topical interest, and donations towards the Library Fund, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

*Flora of Jamaica*: Containing Descriptions of the Flowering Plants known from the Island, by William Fawcett, B.Sc., F.L.S., formerly Assistant, Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Late Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, and Alfred Barton Rendle, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.L.S., Keeper of the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History). Vol. III. Dicotyledons, Families Piperaceæ to Connaraceæ, with 113 text illustrations and five plates. London: printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum.

This volume forms a continuation of a systematic account of the flowering plants of Jamaica, the first volume of which devoted to orchids was published in 1910. We have the authority of one of the joint authors, Mr. Rendle, for stating that the greater part of the task of preparation of the work, which must be recognised as a standard one on the subject, was performed by Mr. Fawcett, whose knowledge of the flora of Jamaica was gained during a residence extended over many years in that island. The volume is necessarily one for the expert rather than the amateur and the planter, to whom Mr. Fawcett's earlier work, "The Banana," makes such a strong appeal, and we

cannot attempt to follow him through the intricacies of the Dicotyledons, whose number in the island must be legion. The immense list of works referred to in the text affords abundant evidence of the painstaking manner in which Mr. Fawcett has approached his task, which could have only been successfully carried out by a botanic enthusiast, which he certainly is. It is of interest to note that since the first volume of this work was published the authors have discovered the existence in the Bristol Museum of an interesting collection made in Jamaica by Dr. Arthur Broughton between 1783 and 1796, together with a series of drawings dated 1761-1769 by the Rev. John Lindsay. The descriptions in the text have been drawn up with special reference to West Indian specimens, and an illustration of each genus, made under the supervision of the authors by Mr. Percy Highley, adds greatly to the value of the book, which deserves, and will no doubt receive, official recognition by the Government of Jamaica.

*The Handbook of Jamaica for 1915*. By Joseph C. Ford, of the Jamaica Civil Service, and Frank Cundall, F.S.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica. This volume is fully up to the high standard of excellence established by its immediate predecessors. It contains all that one could want to know, and all that is worth knowing about our largest West Indian island and its dependencies. Apart from the business and official information which it affords, its pages are devoted to a description of the island and the particulars regarding the railway, cab and boat hire, etc., to say nothing of its large scale map, should make it indispensable to tourists. In continuation of the catalogue of portraits which appeared in last year's Handbook, Mr. Cundall now gives particulars of the many engravings of Jamaica scenery in the Institute of Jamaica which will be of great interest to collectors.

#### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The attention of those Education authorities in the British West Indies which have not already obtained copies is called to the West India Committee Map of the West Indies. This publication has been most favourably received and is already being used in many schools and colleges. It may be noted that the Committee offer it to Education departments at the same specially reduced price as that quoted to members of the West India Committee.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum, post free, to any part of the world. Cheques should be made payable to the West India Committee and crossed "The Union of London and Smith's Bank." Particulars regarding advertisement charges may be obtained from the Manager, The West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Spring-backed Filing Cases for holding one year's issues of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR can be obtained at the same address, price 2s. 6d. each, or post free 2s. 10d.

## THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S. Panama**  
Tilbury, London, July 6th:—

Mr. A. B. Avila	Mrs. Harrison	Miss Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. T. H. J. Brown	Miss Harrison	Mr. D. F. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Chihl	Mrs. Haynes	Mr. W. M. Sinclair
Rev. & Mrs. F. J. Cutts	Mr. G. Innes	Mr. F. W. Vale
Mr. J. A. Child	Mr. A. C. Irving	Mr. C. E. Vieira
Mrs. M. C. Cornish	Mrs. A. M. Kennal	Miss E. Watson
Mr. L. Devoto	Mr. R. F. Love	Mr. L. Westcott
Mr. & Mrs. Fairbairn	Mr. R. Mossman	Mrs. S. A. Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Gale	Mrs. E. M. Pearson	Misses Williamson (2)
Miss V. E. Gale	Miss N. M. H. Pearson	Dr. O. N. Walker
	Miss M. Rose	Mr. R. J. Williams

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. Mexico, July 15th:—**

Mr. N. H. Brewster,	Mr. L. Owen	Mr. H. Murnaghan
L.R.C.P.	Mr. V. C. Billing	Mr. G. Jacobs
Mr. D. Findlay	Mrs. C. M. Dalziel	Mrs. B. M. Bartlett
	Misses Bartlett (2)	

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S. Panama, August 8th:—**

Mr. W. Skinner	Mr. & Mrs. J. Miller, Jr	Mr. C. E. Blacker
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## WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

### Bendal's (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The report and accounts for the year ended October 31st last, show that the contractors' and peasant's canes handled at the factory amounted to 24,730.6.2 tons for which an average price of 13/7.18 per ton was paid. The resultant sugar was about 2,100 tons. Sugar sales realised £27,441 19s. 1d., making with the value of sugar on hand £27,810 1s. 11d. To this is added molasses sales £599 11s. 5½d. and molasses on hand £384 13s. 11d., bringing, with sundry island receipts and transfer fees, the total on the credit side to £28,833 1s. 11d. The chief items of expenditure were purchase of canes £16,814 9s. 5½d., factory expenditure, including wages, salaries and supplies £8,022 14s. 4½d. The London Office expenditure and director's fees amounted to £162 10s. 8d. only. Interest and debenture interest absorbed £728 9s. 4d., and after writing off £1,050 for depreciation, and £154 17s. 3d. for additional depreciation, the Profit and Loss Account shows a profit of £1,900. The total capital of the company is £22,500, and after paying the preference dividend on the 20,000 preference shares of £t each, there remains £500 for distribution as dividend on the Ordinary shares of which there are 20,000 of 2s. 6d. each. In their report the Directors state that the new machinery sent out in the autumn of 1913, which included a new mill, a 10 ton vacuum pan, and a central Torricellian condensing plant, as well as fresh railway line to connect with Blubber Valley, reached the factory safely, and has been duly erected. On the whole the season of 1913-14 was a favourable one, so far as the weight of cane was concerned, but in consequence of heavy rains which fell in the reaping season during the months of May and July, the quality of the cane was much below the average, which mainly accounts for the poor return in sugar from the cane ground. The sales of sugar made by the commercial agents were on a somewhat higher basis than that at which purchases of cane, based on sugar prices, were made at the factory. The Chairman, Mr. H. D. Spooner, and Mr. Hall visited Antigua during the year and successfully adjusted a disagreement over prices paid to the contractors resulting from the poor sucrose content of the canes, and were able

to make arrangements to bring in the canes of Behuont Estate to be ground at Bendal's Factory. They hoped that some other contractors in the neighbourhood may bring in their canes in future years to the factory.

### The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

Production for week ended Wednesday, 30th June, 719 tons.

Divi.	Latest Quotations.		PRICES
			July 12
4 %	Antigua ... 4 %	Redeemable 1919-44 ... ..	95
3 ½ %	Barbados ... 3 ½ %	Redeemable 1925-42 ... ..	95
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 %	Redeemable 1935 ... ..	94 ½
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 %	Redeemable 1923-45 ... ..	74 ½
4 %	Grenada ... 4 %	Redeemable 1917-42 ... ..	94 ½
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 %	Redeemable 1934 ... ..	92 ½
3 ½ %	Jamaica ... 3 ½ %	Redeemable 1919-49 ... ..	83 ½
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 %	Redeemable 1922-44 ... ..	75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 %	Redeemable 1919-44 ... ..	95
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 %	Redeemable 1917-42 ... ..	94
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 %	Redeemable 1922-44 ... ..	74
6 %	The Colonial Bank ... ..	... ..	47
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ... ..	... ..	100
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ... ..	... ..	100
4 ½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 ½ % Debentures ... ..	... ..	90sd
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures ... ..	... ..	90sd
4 ½ %	Imperial Direct Line 4 ½ % Debentures ... ..	... ..	100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ... ..	... ..	147
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ... ..	... ..	97 ½
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares) ... ..	... ..	71-80
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid) ... ..	... ..	416
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ... ..	... ..	18s
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref. ... ..	... ..	28
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ... ..	... ..	102
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures ... ..	... ..	74
	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures ... ..	... ..	85
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ... ..	... ..	23 ½
6 ½	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 ½ % Cum. 1st Pref ... ..	... ..	88
6 ½	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd " ... ..	... ..	88
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ... ..	... ..	99 ½

## WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller) July 5th, "Fine rains generally throughout the island." British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell and Co.) July 8th, Demerara, "Weather favourable—too wet West Coast." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.) July 10th, "Rather heavy Essequibo."

The question of increased taxation—always an unpopular one—promises to give rise to acute controversy in Barbados. It is estimated that at the end of the financial year 1915-16 the indebtedness to the Treasury will be £9,000, and that the annual deficit thereafter will be £6,000. The methods of taxation proposed to meet the deficit are Stamp Duties, or an Income Tax, or both. It is believed that the former would realise annually from £5,000 to £6,000, and the latter about £6,500. A tax of an additional ½d. on every letter posted in the island as a purely war measure—yielding about £2,200 a year—and an addition of 20 per cent. on the import duties on articles other than necessaries of life, and wine and tobacco, which will yield £7,000 a year, have also been suggested.



**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                        |                      |                     |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. A. K. Agar         | Mr. G. Graf          | Mr. W. F. Samuels   |
| Mr. E. Sir H. Heshelth | Mr. John T. Gray     | Mr. C. W. Scott     |
| Mr. Bell, K.C.M.G.     | Mr. E. A. H. Haggart | Mr. R. B. Short     |
| Mr. A. Campbell        | Mr. A. T. Hammond    | Mr. W. Smith        |
| Mr. J. W. Calhoun      | His Honour Leslie    | Hon. P. H. Watkins  |
| Mr. Cecil D. Chambers  | Jarvis               | U.S.O.              |
| Mr. F. J. Evans        | Mr. A. S. Kernalian  | and                 |
| Mr. W. M. Fletcher     | Mr. A. E. Peckins    | Mr. H. Graham Year- |
| Mr. J. M. Fleming      | Mr. W. C. Robertson  | wood                |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Lt.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wishoro' Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
 Mr. H. C. Morcom, Great Neels, Cheshire

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE**--Remains as from August 8th at 5 per cent. The old War Loan stands at 93½, and Consols 65.

**SUGAR**--At the beginning of another half-year, it may not be amiss to foreshadow what the sugar position will be for the next two periods of six months. The extent of the Cuban crop is now practically known, and it may be taken that the amount of sugar available from it after the 30th of June will be something in the neighbourhood of 900,000 tons. Hawaii and Porto Rico will probably furnish another 300,000 tons, and the Philippines 100,000 tons. Louisiana and the United States beet crop will have placed on the market 750,000 tons by the end of the year. The British West Indies and British Guiana will furnish about 100,000 tons. Out of the estimated Java crop of 1,300,000 tons, probably 1,000,000 tons will have been delivered, and Mauritius will have supplied about 180,000 tons. The Argentine, Brazil, Peru, and Fiji will furnish 250,000 tons between then, while other cane sugar producing countries will contribute 100,000 tons. Certainly not more than 300,000 tons will be available from non-enemy Continental beet countries. Some of the sugar producing countries, Japan, South Africa, Australia and India import sugar. There will thus be available for general purposes 4,080,000 tons. Taking the consumption of sugar of the United Kingdom for the six months as being 900,000 tons, and of the United States as 1,800,000 tons, the remainder of the sugar importing countries will have 1,380,000 tons at their disposal. With sugar at its normal price India imports 800,000 tons a year, but since the war that country has only been importing at the rate of 400,000 tons per annum. The requirements of Australia, Malaya and South Africa are in the neighbourhood of 300,000 tons per annum, and of Canada 300,000 tons. In 1913 China imported 400,000 tons, but in present circumstances its consumption is not likely to reach this figure, and 250,000 tons is probably nearer the true amount. With the shortened Formosa crop Japan will require 100,000 tons for her own consumption, while France wants about 200,000 tons in excess of her own Colonial production. The Mediterranean wants are 150,000 tons per annum. The six months' wants of these countries will therefore be 850,000 tons, leaving a surplus of 530,000 tons for consumption not considered and contingencies.

The supplies for the following six months, January to June, are not on such a liberal scale. For these the figures will probably be, Cuba, 1,700,000 tons; Java, 300,000 tons; Mauritius, 70,000 tons; British West Indies and British Guiana, 100,000 tons; Philippines, 200,000 tons; Louisiana and American beet, 200,000 tons; Hawaii, 300,000 tons; Porto Rico, 250,000 tons; Argentina, Brazil and Peru, 250,000 tons; San Domingo, 100,000 tons; from other not enumerated sources, 50,000 tons; in all 3,520,000 tons. The consumption of the importing countries taken as before will be 3,550,000 tons, practically balancing the production and leaving no margin for unconsidered consumption or eventualities. It is this scarcity of sugar during the first six months of the years under present conditions which raised the price of the world's sugar 20 per cent. between the 1st of January and the 30th of June of this year.

The Board of Trade returns show that the sugar imported during the month of June only amounted to 85,583 tons, as against 181,673 tons for the same month last year. For the six months ending June the imports were 720,107 tons, as against 990,344 tons last year. Of this 163,485 tons were from Cuba, and 75,978 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana. The stocks in the United Kingdom were 248,100 tons as against 317,000 tons last year, and the consumption for the six months' has been 820,734 tons as against 863,605 tons for the corresponding period last year.

Mr. Asquith, in his speech on Thrift at the Guildhall, recommended the people of the United Kingdom not to consume so much sugar, and thus not put money into foreign pockets. It is entirely due to the British Government not having, during the last 30 years, taken steps to secure an adequate sugar supply for the United Kingdom from its own colonies that this recommendation has had to

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
Jan. 1 to June 3, 1915		Jan. 1 to June 13, 1915	
Sugar	34,345	26,297 Tons.	7,461
Molasses	643 Puns.	8,309 Tons.	...
Rum	1,980,788	1,431,100 Galls.	413,396
Molascml. No.	979	1,014 Tons.	...
Cacao	31,968	23,357 lbs.	2,999,696
Coffee	64,232	180,643	4,633,810
Coco-nuts	880,319	1,005,896 No.	13,615,606
Oranges	...	...	1,413,000
Bananas	...	...	3,998,273
Cotton	...	...	...
Pimento	...	...	...
Ginger	...	...	5,362
Honey	...	...	14,439 Cwts.
Drywoods	...	...	47,504
Gold	25,616	26,026 ozs.	21,999
Diamonds	304	4,549 Carats.	...
Rice	10,922,270	8,056,446 lbs.	...
Balata	774,674	341,678	...
Timber	825	593	...
Timber	67,540	104,000 cubic ft.	...
Lumber	15,563	186,003 ft.	...
Line (citrile of)	7,938	1,580 lbs.	...

Trinidad.		Barbados.	
Jan. 1 to June 18, 1915		Jan. 1 to June 4, 1915	
Sugar	30,641	29,263 Tons.	16,727
Molasses	2,069	2,527 Puns.	18,834
Rum	2,684	668	19,856 Tons.
Coco-nuts	4,340,795	7,512,325 No.	65,328 Puns.
Asphalt	33,863	76,636 Tons.	...
Manglk	238	133	...
Biters	7,400	8,632 Cases.	...
Coffee	10,240	8,800 lbs.	...
Crude Petrol	217,521	6,854,373 Galls.	...
Cacao	37,456,800	52,578,400 lbs.	10,156,040
Cotton	...	...	11,363,400 lbs.
Seed	...	...	652
Copra	13,419	3,705 Bags.	998
Spice	...	...	3,555 Bags.
Kola	...	...	96

Grenada.	
Jan. 1 to June 13, 1914/15	
Cacao	10,156,040
Cotton	11,363,400 lbs.
Seed	652
Copra	998
Spice	3,555 Bags.
Kola	96
	108
	780,675
	842,945 lbs.
	3,160
	3,485

Dominica.	
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914.	
Cacao	993,888
Limes	45,744
Lime Juice, raw	379,875
concentrated	148,179
Citrate of ...	5,191
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984
equilled	1,619
Handwood	82,134
Habanacs	3,780
Coronuts	554,549

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

be made. Had a system of Imperial Preferential treatment existed, £25,000,000 per annum would not be going into the hands of foreign producers of sugar. Further, had there been an Imperial supply of sugar when the war broke out, the British consumer would not now be paying the high price he has to pay for his sugar.

An interesting point in sugar recently has been the purchase of 15,000 tons of Cuban 96° for Holland, at, it may be mentioned, \$3.80 f.o.b. This, we presume, is consequent on the demand for Dutch refined from the British Government, from the inadequacy of our refining power. This is a further illustration of what might have been avoided if an Imperial sugar policy had been adopted in the past.

The Queensland Government has compulsorily purchased all the raw sugar of that colony at £18 per ton. The import duty on sugar there is £6 per ton. It can, therefore, readily be seen that this figure is a long way below the price the sugar is worth, and as the cost of production is bound to go up during the war, the sugar producers are naturally sore on the subject.

Messrs. Willett and Gray give the European 1915-16 beet crop as likely to be 6,350,000 tons from 4,752,280 acres, as against 7,477,495 tons for crop 1914-15, and 8,243,165 tons for 1913-14, a falling off of 900,000 tons from the last crop, and of 1,900,000 tons from crop 1913-14. On the other hand the United States area under beet is now 662,463 acres, as against 513,201 acres for the 1914-15 crop, and a crop of 750,000 tons, as against 646,257 for last crop, is indicated.

The West Indian Crystallised Grocery market in London has not been particularly active during the fortnight. On the 2nd 780 tons were put up for sale. There was little or no demand for the higher qualities, although the lower grades sold fairly well at steady prices. Out of 4,687 bags of good colony Trinidad crystallised 1,650 bags sold at 26s. 1,068 bags of low brownish to middling yellow Jamaica sold at 23s. 9d. to 24s. 6d., and 680 bags of Demerara at 25s. 9d. Out of 240 bags of Trinidad muscovado put up for sale, 130 sold at 20s. On the 6th, out of 3,810 bags Trinidad crystallised 1,345 changed hands at 23s. 9d. to 24s. 4d. for low middling to middling qualities; 240 bags of bold yellow Demerara were bought in, but subsequently sold at 25s. 6d. 274 bags of St. Kitts and 231 bags of Barbados were bought in. 30 tierces of Barbados muscovado were bought in but subsequently sold privately for 19s. 9d.

West India sugar statistics from Jan. 1st to July 3rd are:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	24,461	22,795	28,389	16,361	27,770
Deliveries	19,391	14,746	15,095	14,739	18,288
Stock	11,079	20,653	15,133	6,110	13,772

The New York market has shown considerable strength since our last issue, and prices have risen from \$4.89 to \$4.95 for duty paid Cubans. Duty free sugars however are still selling at \$4.89, and the value of granulated remains steadily at \$6.00. The receipts of sugar at Cuban ports has considerably diminished, having only been 18,000 tons for the week ending the 3rd, against 21,000 tons for the corresponding week last year, in spite of the greater number of Centrals still at work. This falling off is probably due to the weather which is favourable for the growing crops and therefore unsuitable for factory work. Last week 14 factories were at work as against 9 last year. The decision of the United States Court of Customs' Appeal, whereby the 5 per cent. discount on sugar conveyed in American bottoms was in the case of Cuban sugars to be deducted from the full duty, and the 20 per cent. preferential allowance then calculated is stated by Messrs Willett and Gray to have to some extent influenced sugar quotation for duty free sugars. Under this decision the duty on 96° Cubans becomes .9546 cent. per lb. instead of 1.0048 cents, a difference of .05 cent. The United States Government has appealed against the decision to the Supreme Court.

**CACAO**—The market during the fortnight has been firm with good strengthening demand. Auction sales were held on the 6th, when 8,745 bags were offered, the greater portion of which changed hands at full rates. 1,667 bags of Trinidad were bought in, but 825 bags were sold subsequently at advanced rates, 80s. to 82s. There was considerable competition for the 2,466 bags of Grenada, which

were most sold at 65s. to 80s., an advance of 1s. to 2s. in the lower qualities, and of 6d. in the higher. Out of 501 bags of Jamaica offered, 281 sold at 70s.; 107 bags of Dominica were all sold at 72s. to 79s.; 89 bags out of the 200 bags of St. Lucia offered were disposed of at prices varying from 73s. to 79s. 6d. A later sale of 600 bags Trinidad at from 85s. to 83s. has been reported.

No less than 20,333,384 lbs. of cacao entered the United Kingdom in June, making 100,942,648 lbs. for the half-year as against 5,638,504 lbs. and 50,749,429 lbs for the corresponding periods of last year. The exports of cacao for June were 7,143,849 lbs., as against 8,44,555 lbs. for June last year. For the six months the exports have been 27,695,835 lbs., as against 8,138,528 lbs. for the corresponding period of last year. The imports for June were 34 times those of last year, the exports were over eight times as much. The imports for the six months of this year have been nearly twice those of last year, and the exports nearly 34 times. The export as well as the import trade thus increases rapidly.

The stocks in London on July 3rd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Grenada	10,302	10,328	10,760	7,140	7,273
Trinidad	3,746	12,884	7,336	4,539	16,909
Total, all kinds	78,204	97,169	80,613	109,633	123,688

**RUM**—Demerara steady with unchanged prices. Ordinary kinds may be quoted at 2s. 4d. for spot terms. Jamaica firm with dearer prices. Business done at 3s. 8d. to 4s. 3d. for good clean to favourite home trade marks.

The stocks in London on July 3rd were:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	4,430	7,987	6,170	7,984	9,886
Demerara	6,059	10,652	7,641	6,985	5,637
Total, all kinds	18,124	26,146	21,645	22,271	25,375

**COFFEE**—A meeting of the Coffee Trade was held on the 9th in connection with the Government export regulations. Originally these permitted the exportation of coffee to firms in neutral countries, who would guarantee that the coffee would not go to Germany or Austria. Recently, however, the Government decreed that the only firm to which coffee could be consigned was the Netherlands Trading Corporation. This Company has now notified exporters in England that it cannot take more coffee from them. The meeting decided to endeavour to get permission from the Government to fulfil existing contracts. The market has been dull, and all Jamaica coffee put up has been bought in.

**COTTON**—No business has been done during the past fortnight in West India Sea Island cotton.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Fresh Limes—The mail brought a few boxes to meet orders. Lime Oil—Distilled—Nothing offering, but demand continues. Handpressed—Small sales at 7s. per lb. Lime Juice—Fine Jamaica has been sold at 3s. 8d. to 3s. 9d. per gallon; but with fair supplies and restricted trade owing to high prices it is becoming more difficult to effect sales. There is no change to report in Concentrated or in Citrate, which remains at £25 per pipe c.i.f. New York.

**RUBBER**—Market has been strong, and prices have advanced for Plantation kinds. Fine Plantation is quoted at 2s. 7½d.; smoked sheet at 2s. 7d.; Fine hard Para at 2s. 7d.; soft at 2s. 3d., and Castilloa sheet at 1s. 10d.

**SPICES**—The market remains quiet. Mace—At auction on the 30th ult., 17 barrels West Indian were offered, some was sold at 2s. 6d. good bold pale, and 2s. 4d. red. The value of good to fine is 2s. to 2s. 11d.; of red to good, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d.; and of broken, 9d. to 1s. 4d. Nutmegs—100's/80's may be quoted at 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's at 4½d. to 4½d.; and 140's/120's at 4½d. to 4½d. Ginger—Private sales are reported of about 600 packages of Jamaica at full prices. Fair to good bright fetched 70s. to 75s.; ordinary to good fair, 62s. 6d. to 68s.; good fair small at 61s., and ordinary small at 57s. to 58s. The present quotation for good common is 57s. 6d.; fair small and medium, 60s. to 67s. 6d., and good to fine, 70s. to 75s.

**ARROWROOT**—Has been in better demand, and 700 barrels St. Vincent have been sold at 2½d. to 2½d. Quaintons are from 2½d. to 4½d.

July 12th, 1915.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

# West India Committee Circular.

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tunity." Meanwhile, pending the receipt an expression of views from the colonies we defer further comment regarding the attitude of the Royal Mail Company.

### THE FUTURE OF OUR SUGAR SUPPLY.

**A**CTING on the authority of the Colonial Office, the Governor of Mauritius has laid an embargo on the sugar to be made during the crop which begins at the end of this month or early in next. The natural market of Mauritius sugar is the East, notably India, to suit whose wants it makes a sugar which though, as a rule, not quite white enough for the home market, is especially adopted to the requirements of the Indian consumer. This class of sugar is apparently well suited for the sugar-using trades of this country, for the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has been selling it to them at 3s. per cwt. reduction on ruling prices, or at cost price. It will be remembered that at the beginning of the war, when something approaching a panic was threatened through the realisation of the fact that the United Kingdom was going to be deprived of 60 per cent. of its normal supply of sugar, the proportion usually furnished by Germany and Austria, the Government purchased immense quantities of sugar, and the West Indian and Mauritius crops were held up, until the Government had purchased as much of them as they wanted. Events subsequently showed the extreme shortage of sugar anticipated would not occur. In order, therefore, to safeguard the position and incidentally to prevent any enemy sugar finding its way to this country, the importation of sugar by private individuals, save under license in very special circumstances, was then prohibited. The Government still control the sugar trade of this country, and at the same time the price of sugar for internal consumption, and it is in order that it may secure the Mauritius sugar crop at its own price that the present embargo has been imposed. The prices proposed by the Government are 17/6 f.o.b. for first grade, 17/2 for second and 16/10 for third grade white sugar, which are considerably lower than those obtainable elsewhere. But the price itself is not the immediate question. The point is, is the British Government justified in using its power with the Crown Colonies, and those subject to Colonial Office control—a power which it cannot exert in the case of self-governing Colonies—to secure a supply of sugar for the mother country at its own prices? Had our treatment of the colonies concerned been just in times of peace, this question would not have arisen, for Great Britain would not have been dependent on foreign countries for her sugar supply, but would

### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEBTHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.4.  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON. July 26th, 1915

### THE MAIL SERVICE.

**O**WING to the unprecedented state of affairs resulting from the War, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has felt compelled to ask that some modification may be made in the West Indian Mail Service, which they are conducting under contract with the Crown Agents on behalf of the Government and Colonies concerned, on the grounds that they are losing money over it. This may seem anomalous having regard to the fact that the West Indies have been crying out for freightage, and that produce has frequently been crowded out of the transatlantic steamers. The passenger traffic has, however, been reduced almost to vanishing point, and it is claimed that this being the case the service can only be conducted at a loss. We assume that figures will be produced in support of this statement; but even though the West Indies service may show a loss, that alone would not justify a breach of contract. And it must be remembered that the Company is being handsomely paid for the steamers which have been requisitioned by the Government and that what it is losing on the swings it is making on the roundabouts. Inconvenience is bound to result, but the mail steamers are still running between the West Indies and Canada, and the Quebec and other lines maintain communication between those colonies and the United States. By both routes letters and parcels can be sent, but we would advise readers, in the absence of any definite information as to sailings, to mark their correspondence "per first oppor-

have had ample supplies to draw upon within the Empire. It is a regrettable fact that the sugar-producing colonies have not only received no encouragement from successive British Governments in the past, but have not even been protected from unfair competition. It is true that the great Imperialist, the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, by means of the Brussels Convention, brought about the abolition of Continental bounties, which had risen to such a degree as to threaten to wipe out all unprotected free cane sugar industries. But that Convention still left our colonial sugar industry with the handicap of £a 10s. per ton in favour of Continental beet, and with a guarantee, given, we have reason to know, quite unnecessarily by our representatives at the Brussels Conference, that Great Britain would not give preferential treatment to sugar from her Colonies as against Continental beet. Now, after having received the coldest of cold shoulders from the British Government, after having to find markets for themselves elsewhere, as the market of their own country has been practically closed to them by the admission of highly protected German and Austrian sugar on equal terms, our sugar exporting Colonies are compelled to sell to the British Government at any price the latter may choose to fix. Nothing has been brought out more clearly by the War than the fact that the sugar bounty system of Germany and Austria, especially that of the former, was aimed at the destruction of our Colonial sugar industries. That was blocked by the Brussels Convention but, as we have pointed out above, that agreement did not take away from the German-Austrian sugar industries all power of harm to the British sugar industries. Although Great Britain, at the instance of the late Government, withdrew from the Convention in response to the insensate cry for cheap sugar, regardless of the consequences, from our sugar-using trades, it is pledged to adhere to its principles, among which is the undertaking not to give preference to our Colonial sugars. We have still the right to cancel this undertaking on giving six months notice to the High Contracting Powers, if, indeed, the War has not, *ipso facto*, abolished the Convention. The enquiries made by the West India Committee have clearly established the fact that our tropical colonies possess the necessary land and conditions to produce many times the requirements of the United Kingdom. But the development of an all-British supply of sugar cannot be carried out unless the British Government agree to a preferential treatment of British sugars at least equal to the protection which Continental beet enjoys, and for a term of years sufficient to attract capital and place production on a satisfactory basis. It is hardly credible that such an arrangement will not be carried out when the War is over, now that the Government have realized the bitter consequences of our sugar policy in the past.

On July 22nd a deputation from the great City meeting on Thrift, introduced by Lord St. Aldwyn and including Sir Felix Schuster, Mr. Harold Cox, the former Secretary of the Cobden Club; and Mr

Machin, a past President of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, urged Mr. Asquith to impose heavy taxes on certain imports with the view not only of raising revenue, but also of reducing them as much as possible, and of thus preventing money from going abroad in payment for them. Sugar, tobacco and tea were specifically mentioned, and the hope naturally arises that, if this course is adopted the new duties will not fall on British-colonial produce. If the sugar duties are increased the sugar users would not, we imagine, be slow to support the producers of sugar within the Empire in advocating that this extra should apply only to foreign and not British sugar.

#### "TIMEHRI."

**M**R., now SIR, EVERARD IM THURN did British Guiana a good service when he founded *Timehri*. One of the avowed objects of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana since its formation in 1844 had been the "establishing and carrying on of a periodical publication," and as nothing had been done in the direction, MR. IM THURN, in 1882, thought it "certainly time to begin." He did begin and the result is well known to people connected with British Guiana. *Timehri*—so called after the Indian name of the ancient and so far undeciphered picture writings found on the rocks in the Guiana rivers—made its welcome appearance, and for twenty years after, under the editorship of its founders, MR. J. J. QUETCH and MR. J. RODWAY, successively, it dealt with matters agricultural, scientific and historical concerning the colony in a manner beyond all praise. But in 1899 the Directors, applying the pruning-knife to the Society's expenses, lopped off the Journal which should have remained one of its chief assets. It was left to MR. NUNAN to revive the publication twelve years later, and his efforts on its behalf met with such success that it is now more widely read than at any previous period of its existence. As an organ for ventilating matters concerning the colony, *Timehri* fills an important place in West Indian literature. We are led to make the remarks by a perusal of the May number of this valuable publication, which contain many articles worthy of note. The railway question, which would certainly have been brought to an issue in this year of grace, had the Germans not upset the peace of Europe, bulks largely in it. SIR WALTER EGERTON dealing with Railway and Hinterland Development in an article illustrated by some of his admirable photographs of the interior, and MR. JOSEPH J. NUNAN writing on the proposed trunk line to Manaos, a scheme which was first discussed at his house in Georgetown in September, 1907. The REV. J. AIKEN, one of the Joint Editors, crystallises the whole problem of development under the heading "*Timehri* and development." In a lucid article MR. AIKEN puts on record the history of the railway question which has been discussed intermittently with varying degrees of warmth since 1891. The more pertinent paragraphs of the



EWING'S GAYMANAS ESTATE.



THE WAG WATER RIVER NEAR CASTLETON.

TWO CHARACTERISTIC VIEWS IN JAMAICA.

Governor's despatch drafted in 1914 on his return from his tour in the interior with Mr. BLAND, and the report of the Hinterland Railway Commission, are included together with Mr. NUNAN's memorandum, which was adopted by them. In these papers emphasis is given to the importance of colonisation and development schemes for the coast and river districts, accompanying any scheme for a railway to, and the development of, the Hinterland. The article should have been dated for the summary of the present position of the railway project is that which existed prior to the war, or in July, 1914, and not as a stray reader might suppose May 1915, the date on the magazine. Before the war, temporarily at any rate, upset all calculations, the position was that the then Secretary of State had somewhat discouraged the proposals, condemned the suggested advance of capital by the Imperial Government without a definite term for repayment, considered that more definite data as to probable traffic should be furnished, and laid it down that control of the colony's finances by the Imperial Government would be an absolutely necessary condition of any loan. The proposed change in the Constitution which that would involve had been actively canvassed, and it appeared likely that it would not meet with any considerable opposition. The war has given a serious set-back to the railway question, but this will be only temporary, and when the development of the interior again comes within the region of practical politics the facts and figures relating to the subject, which are marshalled with skill and ability, must prove of great value. Besides the articles on development, the May number of *Timehri* contains many others of more than passing interest. BARON SICCAMA contributes some notes on the Sea Defences of the colony, in which he sounds a serious note of warning, pointing out that "If you want to keep an enemy out of the country you must spend money on soldiers, sailors and guns. If you want to keep the sea out you must spend it on proper sea defences," and even going so far as to suggest that if steps are not taken "the sea will encroach more and more till Georgetown will perhaps remain an island surrounded with mud flats, with here and there a piece of old wall or a crushing mill sticking out,"—a gloomy picture, indeed. MR. NUNAN makes a strong appeal for the establishment of a common Court of Appeal for British Guiana and the West Indies, MR. JUSTICE RUSSELL writes on the origin of the American races, Mr. H. A. WISHART contributes an article on the colony timber, which would form a useful appendix to the articles which appeared in these columns from the pen of MR. LUKE HILL and MRS. WABY, whose husband laid out the Botanical Gardens in Georgetown and Berbice, contributes a charming article entitled "40 years life in tropical gardens." MR. J. CUNNINGHAM, who has succeeded MR. NEWMAN as Editor, and his colleague, REV. J. AJKIN, are catholic in their selection of subjects, with the result that *Timehri* appeals to many different tastes. It is a pity that there are not more journals of this class in the West Indies.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

[Passed by the Censor for publication.]

The coal strike in South Wales, which threatened wholly to paralyse the action of the Navy and partly to paralyse the output of munitions, is ended, for the present at least, in victory for the men. That it should have happened in the midst of a war for existence is a national disgrace. The strike has made a painful impression in France and Russia, where patriotism could not so far forget itself in these days.

The success of the War Loan—to turn to brighter things—is a sign that public faith in our ability to carry the War through to a victorious finish stands firm. In all 550,000 persons subscribed £570,000,000 through the Bank of England, while 547,000 persons applied for £15,000,000 through the Post Office, a total which, a few days later was announced to have reached £24,000,000. By December, when the Post Office lists close, it is expected the total subscribed will be £600,000,000, the largest subscription to a public loan ever received.

### On the Eastern Front.

Here the interest of the War is centred. The enemy is now developing his most formidable offensive and the most important in its potential results since his march on Paris last summer. Then full of arrogant confidence he outran his transport, and was thrown back by the Allies from the Marne. After that came the rain, which was as fortunate for us as the storm that dispersed the Armada. For it was so incessant that the enemy could not bring up his siege train over the sodden roads. All the winter and spring he has been trying to put the Russian armies out of action, without success. Now that the summer has come again he is attempting in the East, but with greater caution, the scheme which so nearly succeeded in the West. Men and metal on an unprecedented scale were concentrated between the Carpathians and the Upper Vistula, breaking through the Russian line on a front of 25 miles, and forcing our Allies to retire from Lemberg and the San. Since, the action has developed rapidly—though very little is, so far, known about it—from the sea to the Rumanian frontier. In the Baltic the Germans are endeavouring to take Riga from the sea, in order to make it a submarine base for blockading the Gulf of Finland and threatening Petrograd. Hindenburg has four armies under his command operating on the Narew and Lower Vistula fronts, while Mackensen has three in South Poland and Galicia—in all about two million men. The intention is the old familiar "nut-cracker" one, so dear to the German military mind. The Russian armies are to be enclosed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Warsaw. But, while Mackensen is away from the railway, and the difficulty of supplying his huge armies must be enormous, the Russians are in possession of effective communications. Nevertheless the enemy is within a few miles of the Lublin-Kovel line. But it is to the advantage of

our Allies that the Archduke Ferdinand is tardily supporting Mackensen after the rough handling he received at Krasnik. It is in this part that the Russians have placed their best soldiers, because it is the only one which has no natural advantages for defence. Mackensen's success will depend on the movements of Woyrsch, who is making a concentric advance on Ivangorod from the west and south-west. At every point on this vast front our Allies are fighting stubbornly, and when they retire anywhere lay waste the country behind them. The situation, though critical for them, does not involve the loss of their armies, which are the enemy's objective. Will the Kaiser succeed where Napoleon failed?

#### The Importance of the Narrows.

The farther the Russians retire the greater is the significance attaching to the forcing of the "Narrows." The fall of Achi Baba will be the turning-point of the war, and a dramatic one, too, altering its whole character. So clearly does Germany perceive it that the danger it threatens is one of her motives in concentrating such huge forces against the Russians, calculating thereby to cripple their movements for months to come. It is also the source of her frantic efforts to keep Rumania out of the War, and to use her as a means of supplying the Turks with munitions. When the Anglo-French Fleet anchors in the Bosphorus the Eastern and Western fronts will be united by sea, the Central Powers taken in the rear, the Balkans influenced in favour of the Allies, supplies released, and Russia provided with munition. If the forcing of the "Narrows" were necessary before recent events on the Eastern front, it is doubly so now.

#### Our progress in Gallipoli.

According to Sir Ian Hamilton's latest despatch the Allied Forces are steadily progressing in their tremendous task. On July 12th two strongly held and fortified trenches were captured. In the course of the night, however, the Turks regained a sector vital to the safety of the line, and another effort had to be made to dislodge them. It was entirely successful, the French in the meantime pushing their extreme right down to the mouth of the Kereves Dere, and maintaining it against counter-attacks. This gives an idea of the slow and laborious nature of the fighting, which is rendered still more difficult by heat, flies, and stench, especially in the gully ravine, which has no outlet to the sea. Up to the end of June our casualties amounted to more than 40,000, a larger total than for the whole of the South African War.

The activity of the Allies' submarines in the Sea of Marmora is confining the enemy's lines of communications with the Dardanelles and the Peninsula of Gallipoli to the land, except, of course, at the Narrows. A long stretch of the railways, both on the European and Asiatic side, passes through rough and hilly country, and, in any case, water transport between Constantinople to Gallipoli, a distance of about 130 miles, is much more con-

venient, besides doubling the line of communication. By cutting it off the Allied submarines are greatly restricting the enemy's supplies in the peninsula.

#### On the Italian Front.

The Italians, who had eight months in which to prepare for war, have profited by its lessons. Instead of trying to break the Austrian trenches and launch a general offensive, they are consolidating the defence of their own frontier on the system which has held up the Allies in France for so long, providing in all sectors, the mountainous wall from the Tarvis Pass to the Toblach Pass, the front from the Toblach Pass to the Grigno Tunnel, and Trentino front, and providing the necessary troops with sufficient reserves, to prevent Austria from invading Italy. With the rest of her forces our Ally is making good her footing in those territories under the Austrian flag which she regards her own. At present the struggle is fiercest between the Rivers Isonzo and Wippach, which enclose the Carso plateau. Its possession will give the Italians possession of Gorizia, a railway centre of importance. At Sagraa they have won a considerable success, capturing many prisoners.

In operating off Cattaro, in the vicinity of which they did some damage, an Italian cruiser squadron lost one ship, the *Giuseppe Garibaldi*, an old vessel and not so valuable as the armoured cruiser *Amalfi*, which was recently lost in a similar way. In both cases most of the crew were saved.

#### The United States and the War.

Enormous pressure, direct and indirect, is being brought to bear on President Wilson to play the German game. On one side are the cotton merchants and packers, who are suffering from the restriction of their trade, and working openly; on the other are the Teutonic influences, which are trying to force the President's hand underground. The most respectable of them appeal to American prejudices, interests, and sentiments; the baser, to intimidation, such as the attack on the life of Mr. Morgan and Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, incendiarism on battleships and strikes in munition factories. The most determined effort is being made to induce Congress to place an embargo on the exportation of all material of war, which is, of course, aimed at the Allies rather than Germany.

Another outrage at sea was the attack on the liner *Orduna*, which was carrying American as well as British passengers. As she was outward bound there could be no question of her carrying ammunition or contraband of war. Nevertheless, without warning, she was attacked by a submarine, whose torpedo only missed her through the coolness and fine seamanship of her captain. What does the United States think of this further attempt at wholesale murder?

Mr. Lansing's note to Germany is brief, and, though conciliatory, resolute. He sticks to the point, which is the persistent violation of international sea law by Germany. Any further act of

piracy, which directly affects the United States will be regarded as "deliberately unfriendly." These are the last words of diplomacy in a dispute. That President Wilson thinks so is clear from the orders he has given to the American Navy. Even he realises that active military preparations are the only arguments Germany understands.

#### End of the "Königsberg."

The destruction of the *Königsberg*, one of the enemy's fast light cruisers, reads like a page of romance. She took refuge in the Rufigi River in German East Africa, and was cleverly concealed by the tropical jungle, her crew digging themselves in to prevent their ship from being damaged from the land side. As no ordinary war vessel could reach her, two of the river monitors, which rendered such valuable service in checking the enemy's advance on Dunkirk last autumn, were sent out. The position of the *Königsberg* was accurately located by aircraft, and the monitors opened fire on her, to which she replied with some effect, killing four men and wounding four. But the jungle prevented the airmen from "spotting" the fall of our shots. For six hours the ship was bombarded, and her masts were still standing. A salvo was then turned on her and she burst into flames, though for some time she kept up her fire intermittently. The most that could be said is that she was "incapacitated."

#### Success in the Cameroons.

The Allied Forces have occupied Nguandere, an important town on the route from Duala, the capital of the Protectorate, and Lake Chad. As it was the centre of the enemy's defence, its loss is a serious defeat, which the Germans tried to retrieve by a sharp night counter-attack. As in South-west Africa, success depended on the combined movements of several columns widely separated, so it does in the Cameroons. One which captured Garua recently, operated from the Nigerian frontier, another from Duala on the coast, and the largest from the east. This is Anglo-French, and under the command of General Dobell, who, it should be noted, is a Canadian. It is the Force under his command which is now in Nguandere. The encircling of the Germans, whose resistance is at once skillful and determined on the present European pattern, is thus proceeding with the continual extension of the zone occupied by the Allies. The difficulties of this "little war" are considerable, for, in addition to the long distances to be covered in a tropical jungle, the Allied troops have to contend with an enervating climate, fever, dysentery, torrential rains, and short rations.

#### A Fine Record.

The commanding officer of the submarine which torpedoed the German pre-Dreadnought *Pommern* in the Baltic on July 2nd, was Commander Max Horton. It was he who commanded *Eg* when she sank the *Helia* in September last and the destroyer *H16* in the following month.

(To be continued.)

#### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

The total quantity of fruit sent over from the British West Indies for our wounded soldiers and sailors now amounts to 5,389 packages, 2,943 of which have been from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, of which Captain R. Rust is the Secretary; 1,936 from the Jamaica Agricultural Society; 466 from the Dominion Agricultural and Commercial Society, and 44 from various donors in Grenada.

Included in this total are 50 barrels of limes from Dominica and 21 crates of fruit from Trinidad, which arrived in London in the R.M.S. *Danube* on July 12th, and have already been distributed by the West India Committee at the request of the Army Council. Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., writing on June 25th, said that more limes could have been sent had the space been available. Mr. Andrew Green, an American, and owner of Caucfield Estate, to the north of Roseau, alone having offered 50 barrels. This gentleman, who has already contributed to the earlier shipments, is affording a noteworthy example of the practical sympathy which so many Americans are showing for our wounded soldiers and sailors.

Besides the fruit six boxes of tobacco arrived for the Glasgow Highlanders and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from Mr. John Frew, of St. Lucia, and three cases, each containing 42 lbs. of pineapple preserves from Trinidad, where it was prepared by Mr. L. M. Hobson and his friends, have to be acknowledged.

#### OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Caymanas Estate, near Spanish Town, Jamaica, which was once devoted entirely to sugar, now produces bananas in great quantities as well as caue. Part of the property formerly belonged to Lord Howard de Walden, who, in giving evidence before the Committee of Sugar and Coffee Plantations, in 1848, stated that before the abolition of slavery it used to show, with Montpelier Estate, a clearance of £20,000 a year. The Estate, which is irrigated artificially from the Rio Cobre, covers part of the great plain on which Kingston is situated, at the foot of a spur of the Red Hills, and is overlooked by the Manager's house and the Estate's residence, which are on the hills from which the photograph was taken.

The drive from Kingston over Stony Hill and down the valley of the Wag Water river to Castleton Gardens is one of the most popular among visitors to Jamaica. The river owes its name to the Spanish *Agua alta*, literally high water, which survives in *Agua Alta Vale*, one of the many properties of Sir John Pringle and the former residence of Thomas Hibbert, a wealthy Kingston merchant, who died in 1780 and was buried on the estate. The scenery in the neighbourhood of the river is very beautiful, and some idea of its charm can be gained from the photograph reproduced elsewhere.



## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:

Atwell, Lieut. G. Foster (nephew of Mr. J. Sutton Brown, Kingston, Jamaica), commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 Boor, Alex (son of Pilot Boor, Port Antonio, Jamaica), Trooper, Royal Horse Guards.  
 Browne, Lieut. Gladwyn (part proprietor of Waltham Estate, Grenada), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Armoured Car Section.  
 Cheales, Capt. B. R. (late of Nevis), 76th Brigade Machine Gun Officer.  
 Clarke, W. R. (son of the late E. J. Clarke, St. Catherine, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Conacher, James (brother of Mr. Walter Conacher, of Antigua), 8th Battalion Black Watch.  
 Conacher, John E. (brother of Mr. Walter Conacher, of Antigua), 1st Canadian Contingent.  
 Deane, and Lieut. Edgar W. (son of Lieut. Dr. Frederick G. W. Deane, of Bridgetown, Barbados), 11th North Staffordshire Regiment.  
 Dougal, Mr. Percy (son of Mr. Geo. A. Dougal, Port Maria, Jamaica), London Scottish.  
 Fleming, and Lieut. Hugh Joseph (son of Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands 1895-1901), 7th Dorset Regiment.  
 Gray, Gunner Wilton Bagot (son of Mr. Baggett Gray, of Jamaica), Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.  
 Heney, Miss Eulalie, and  
 Heney, Miss Gladys (daughters of the late T. A. Heney, J.P., Sav-la-Mar, Jamaica), of the Riversdale Hospital, Toronto, Canada, nurses with the Canadian Contingent.  
 Hill, Captain Jacobus Darrell (son of Mr. Justice J. K. D. Hill), 3rd Battalion Cameronians (London Scottish).  
 Hogg, and Lieut. T. Allan Hogg (of Messrs. Fitzpatrick & Co., Kingston, Jamaica), 11th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment.  
 Kerr, and Lieut. W. Lord Coke (son of Mr. Lionel P. Kerr, J.P., Jamaica), Mechanical Transport Section, Army Service Corps.  
 Kerr, Lieut. H. Reginald (son of Mr. H. Farquharson Kerr, J.P., Jamaica), Cavalry Transport Section, Army Service Corps.  
 Kerr, and Lieut. Edward Bourne (son of Rev. W. F. Kerr, Vicar of St. Peter's Ipswich, and of Jamaica), 12th Battalion, Rifle Brigade.  
 Lennard, Captain Ernest (of Lennards, Ltd., Bristol), 6th Gloucestershire Regiment, has returned suffering from an injury received at the Front.  
 Law, Lieut. Dr. J. J. (late Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Lorimer, and Lieut. J. Scott (grandson of the late Mr. Robert S. Lorimer, of Plantation Wales, W.B. Demerara), 28th Battalion County of London Regiment.  
 Maddick, Capt. H., 5th Royal Irish Lancers (late Assistant Military Secretary to Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. Pittcairn Campbell, K.C.B.), Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Expeditionary Force at the Dardanelles.  
 Marshall, Lieut.-Col. F. J., R.G.A. (late Chief Staff Officer, Jamaica), Seaforth Highlanders, Assistant Q.M.G. on the Staff.  
 McDonald, Percival L. (Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 McLellan, G. H. H. (of the Barbados *Weekly Illustrated*, and formerly of the *Demerara Daily Argosy*), has obtained a commission in Kitchener's Army.

Montgomery, J. B. (of the Nova Scotia Bank, Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Moulton-Barrett, Captain Edward F., (son of the Hon. Col. B. Moulton-Barrett, C.M.G., M.L.C., Jamaica), Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.  
 Newsam, Company Sergeant B. W. (son of Mr. B. S. Newsam, of the Registrar's Office, British Guiana), Royal Victoria Rifles, Canadian Contingent.  
 Nunes, Mr. Leslie (son of Mr. M. A. Nunes, of Kingston, Jamaica, and Santa Marta, Colombia), 175th Company, Motor Transport Section, A.S.C.  
 Oughten, Mr. Burchell (son of the late Hon. T. B. Oughten K.C., Attorney-General, Jamaica), Canadian Contingent, has been wounded.  
 Phillips, Private C. A. Ormond (of Bonair, St. Mark's, Grenada), No. 1 Company, 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company.  
 Plews, Cecil (grandson of Mr. Edward Racker, of the Barbados *Agricultural Reporter*), has a commission in 3rd Battalion Gordon Highlanders.  
 Potter, C. T. (of the Nova Scotia Bank, Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Ross, Lance-Corporal J. E. (of Grenada), 3/19th County of London Regiment.  
 Rouse, E.W. (of Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Sandbach, Major-General A. E., R.F., C.B., D.S.O. (Jamaica Estates Proprietor), Chief Engineer, War Office.  
 Thomson, Lieut. Dr. G. W. (Deputy Medical Officer, Montego Bay, Jamaica), Lieut., R.A.M.C.  
 Trigg, Herbert W. (manager of Saltoun Estate, Dominica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.  
 Watkins, Captain C. H., R.N.R. (brother of Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., Colonial Secretary of Grenada, and great-grandson of Captain Watkins, who commanded the *Blauche* in her engagement with the *Pique* after the death of Captain Faulknor on January 5th, 1795).

### Wounded.

Sadler, Louis, Canadian Contingent.  
 Rogers, Claude, Canadian Contingent.

### Honours.

Browne, Captain C. G., Deputy Assistant Director Medical Service, 7th Corps, has been awarded the D.S.O.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Armstrong, Lieut. Edgar (of Barbados), Royal Field Artillery.  
 Bancroft, and Lieut. K. G., (son of Mr. J. R. Bancroft, of Budgetor, of Barbados, served with the 16th Battalion Canadian Scottish at the Front from February 12th until wounded on May 18th at Festubert. Has been given a commission in the 4th Battalion East Surrey Regiment.  
 Bye, G. Frank (son of the late Mr. W. F. Bye, of British Guiana), Canadian Contingent.  
 De Putron, Major Cyril (part proprietor of "La Gloria" Estate, Trinidad), on the Staff in the Dardanelles.  
 De Putron, Captain Hugh (part proprietor of "La Gloria" Estate, Trinidad), at present attached to the War Office Staff.  
 De Valda, and Lieut. F. W. (late Sergeant, Motor Transport Section, A.S.C.), Royal Field Artillery.  
 Kenble, Lieut. Frederick Arthur, of the Suffolk Regiment, was first reported killed, but it has since been learnt that he is a prisoner in Germany, and that his arm has been shattered.  
 Lucie-Smith, and Lieut. E. W. (son of the Chief Justice of Trinidad, and late Lance-Corporal, H.A.C.), 6th London Brigade R.F.A.

Shand, Kenrick Willoughby (son of the late Mr. C. Arthur Shand, of Antigua, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), has a commission in the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Smellie, Lieut. W. Archie (son of Mr. W. G. Smellie, Georgetown, Demerara), 1st Dorset Regiment.

[Copies of the last seventeen WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS containing in all 1,214 names are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, price 1s. each, or post free 1s. 1d.]

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### VII THE OUTLOOK IN THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.

Referring to Mr. Asquith's and Mr. McKenna's speeches on Thrift, in which they recommended the people of the United Kingdom not to consume so much sugar, and thus not put money into foreign pockets, it was pointed out in last CIRCULAR that it was due to the Government not having, during the last 30 years, taken steps to secure an adequate sugar supply for the United Kingdom from its own Colonies that this recommendation had had to be made. It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that if a system of Imperial Preferential treatment existed, £25,000,000 per annum would not now be going into the hands of foreign producers of sugar. Further, had there been an Imperial supply of sugar when the War broke out, the British consumer would not now be paying the high price he has to pay for his sugar. Among the sugar using trades the fear has been expressed that sufficient sugar for our requirements could not be produced within the British Empire. A circular letter was accordingly despatched to the Governments of the sugar-producing colonies, asking what openings there were for the expansion of the sugar industry. In preceding CIRCULARS we have published some official reports from British Guiana, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and the Leeward Islands showing that under favourable conditions their possible output of cane sugar might be as follows:—

	Tons.
British Guiana	2,500,000
Mauritius	305,000
Fiji	172,072
Trinidad and Tobago (1914 crop)	55,488
The Leeward Islands	41,500

The correspondence has also shown that there are many thousands of acres suitable for sugar-cane cultivation in Nigeria and British East Africa.

In continuation of the replies received to the Committee's letters the following despatches from the Acting-Governor of The Windward Islands are published.

Government House,  
Grenada.

9th December, 1914.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 390 of the 6th October, 1914, and to enclose herewith for your information a copy of a letter from the Agricultural and Commercial Society of St. Lucia, dated 4th December, 1914, and a copy of a minute by the Agricultural Superintendent, St. Vincent, on the subject of the Sugar Cane Industry in the respective Islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

2. The information given in the minute by the Agricultural Superintendent, St. Vincent, has, no doubt, been supplemented by Mr. J. G. W. Hazell, in replying to your letter addressed to him.

3. I have not up to the present received the information asked for in respect of the Colony of Grenada, but will forward it when received.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,  
Acting Governor.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.,  
Secretary of the  
West India Committee.

[Enclosure.]

The Agricultural and Commercial  
Society's Office,  
Castries, St. Lucia.  
4th December, 1914.

Sir,—With reference to Your Honour's letter of the 21st instant enclosing copy of one from the W.I. Committee asking for certain information in relation to sugar cane cultivation in St. Lucia, I am desired by the Committee of the Agricultural and Commercial Society to state as follows:—

1.—The actual acreage suitable and available for sugar cane cultivation may, under the existing condition of labour and machinery, be put down as about 6,000 acres. This estimate represents the most fertile lands and those most favourably situated as to transport and shipping and within reach of Central Factories and of Estates whose machinery more or less efficient is still standing for the manufacture of Muscovado Sugar. Without the prospect, however, of much better prices than have ruled during the last thirty years, this estimate would have to be reduced to 4,000 acres or possibly a little less. The largest crop of sugar ever reaped in this Colony did not exceed 13,000 tons muscovado. That was in 1875, the year before our first Central Factory began operation, and when the valleys of the Cul de Sac, Roseau and Demery were comparatively undeveloped and their total output of sugar did not exceed 1,000 tons of muscovado. These Central Factories, together with the Vieuxfort Usine—all equipped with up-to-date machinery—produce at present about 5,000 tons of gray and Demerara Crystals. Their production would probably be doubled if dependence could be placed upon staple and remunerative markets for their produce. With the exception of seven muscovado sugar works still going more or less unsatisfactorily, after many changes of owners and many vicissitudes of fortune, all the old sugar estates have been dismantled and their machinery disposed of to Barbados and Martinique except where it has not perished from age or neglect. The most desirable lands of these estates have been cut up into small holdings and sold to peasants or have been planted out in cocoa, coconuts and limes. Their owners would hardly care to experiment afresh with sugar and to incur the outlay for more or less costly machinery. But many would gladly grow canes and sell to Central Factories in their neighbourhood with an improvement in the price of sugar.

2.—From enquiries which, in view of present high prices, my Committee understand are being made by

peasants and others, for land for the cultivation of cane, in the neighbourhood of Central Factories, the Committee are induced to believe that the prospect of continued profitable prices for sugar would induce them to turn their attention seriously to a class of cultivation which responds so quickly and generously to their labour and modest outlay and which has for them so many other and well-known attractions.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed) LOUIS MAUET-PARET,  
Secretary, Agricultural and Commercial  
Society.

To The Honourable  
The Acting Colonial Secretary,  
St. Lucia.

AGRICULTURAL SUPERINTENDENT TO  
ADMINISTRATOR.

His Honour  
The Administrator

I understand that the Hon'ble J. G. W. Hazell has received a similar letter to the enclosed and supplied certain information.

The matter of sugar cane cultivation, in view of present war crisis, was discussed at the meeting held yesterday, and it was pointed out that only a limited extension of planting could take place and that on estates where mills already existed. There were few mills—no modern ones. In 1912, 178 tons of sugar were exported and 138 tons imported, a balance in favour of the Colony of 40 tons only.

If the sugar industry was recognised and modern machinery put down on Leeward and Windward Coasts I should think we ought to be able to turn out 10,000 tons of sugar from 7,000 to 8,000 acres, with available labour supply. I have no old records to hand.

(Intd.) W. N. S.  
12/11/14.

Since writing the above Your Honour has handed me Mr. Hazell's figures for 1875. These are annexed.

(Intd.) W. N. S.  
12/11/14.

Extract from the "Witness" Newspaper, Saint Vincent,  
August 12th, 1875.

The exports to date are:—

10322 Hogsheads Sugar.	7 Or. Casks Rum
77 Tierces Sugar.	967 Puncheons Molasses.
1741 Barrels Sugar.	10952 Barrels Arrowroot.
1529 Puncheons Rum	157 Hl. Barrels Arrowroot.
433 Hogsheads Rum.	4232 28-lb Tins Arrowroot.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Grenada.

17th March, 1915.

Sir,—With reference to your letter, No. 390, of the 6th October last, addressed to the Acting Governor, I have the honour to forward a copy of a report of the Superintendent of Agriculture, showing the estimated acreage of land available and suitable for cane cultivation in Grenada.

I have the honour to be,

F. H. WATKINS,  
Colonial Secretary.

[Enclosure.]

Report of the Superintendent of Agriculture showing the estimated acreage of land available and suitable for sugar cane cultivation in Grenada.

	Acres.
As reported by Planters	4,635
Unreported, and estimated by Agricultural Department:—	
Estates	2,295
Peasants	500
	<hr/> 7,430

The estimated probable yield of sugar is put at the low figure of 2-ton per acre, or a total of say 5,500 tons. No opinion can be offered as to what proportion of the above estimated acreage would be put under canes if inducement offered. Generally speaking, the labour supply is thought to be sufficient, or nearly so. Approximately 1,000 tons of sugar were imported by Grenada for local consumption during 1914.

(Signed) J. C. MOORE,  
Superintendent of Agriculture.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

### The Traffic Returns to May.

In April and May 9,448 tons of cacao passed through the Panama Canal from the West Coast of South America to Europe to the United States, and 62,096 tons of sugar from Hawaii and 7,102 tons from South America were consigned by the same route to New York. The traffic through the Canal since the opening has, if anything, exceeded expectations. The official figures, for which we are indebted to the *Canal Record*, are as follows:—

Month.	Eastbound.		Westbound.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Cargo.	Vessels.	Cargo.	Vessels.	Cargo.
Aug.	12	57,882	12	49,106	24	106,288
Sept.	30	186,776	27	135,262	57	322,038
Oct.	40	252,288	44	168,069	84	420,357
Nov.	38	242,291	54	206,510	92	448,801
Dec.	57	261,680	42	177,235	99	438,915
Jan.	54	240,875	44	208,082	98	448,957
Feb.	53	274,619	39	149,987	92	424,606
Mar.	80	417,610	56	217,447	136	635,057
April	60	285,457	59	237,384	119	522,841
May	75	332,174	66	246,534	141	578,708
Total	499	2,550,952	443	1,796,616	942	4,347,568

The tolls collected to April 30th amounted to \$3,352,334 37.

MR. W. H. STOKER, K.C., formerly Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands and of Barbados, has been appointed Chairman of the Government Munitions Tribunal at Barrow.

By virtue of Rule III. of the West India Committee, the subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1916. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

### CANE SUGAR IN INDIA.

(Continued from page 314.)

This report by Mr. Peter Abel is reproduced from the Bulletin of the Pusa Agricultural Research Institute.

#### The Quality of the Cane Juice.

As to the quality of the cane juice, in most of the factories visited, there was much complaint.

The Boiling House Records of one factory for the current crop showed the following figures:—

Week ended	Brix.	Sucrose.	Purity.
1913, December 20	16.38	13.20	80.6
" " 27	16.73	13.49	80.6
1914, January 3	16.83	13.65	81.1
" " 10	16.78	13.60	81.0
" " 17	16.80	13.63	81.1
" " 24	16.88	13.84	82.0
" " 31	17.04	13.91	81.6
February 7	17.00	13.87	81.5
" " 14	17.32	14.12	81.5
" " 21	17.56	14.55	82.8
Average of ten weeks	16.93	13.78	81.3
for December	16.55	13.35	80.6
January	16.87	13.72	81.3
February	17.29	14.18	81.9

After I had left India another Bihar factory forwarded an extract from its records for the four years 1909-10 to 1912-13 and for 1913-14 down to part of the whole of the month of March, 1914.

From this statement the following figures have been compiled:—

	December		January		February	March		April		May	
	Brix.	Sucrose	Brix.	Sucrose		Brix.	Sucrose	Brix.	Sucrose	Brix.	Sucrose
1909-10	16.78	13.36	15.82	14.45	18.10	14.58	18.39	14.11	18.00	15.40	—
1910-11	15.49	12.97	16.20	13.28	17.32	14.25	16.97	14.61	17.00	14.17	—
1911-12	15.53	13.40	16.15	14.05	16.15	15.10	17.10	15.00	17.60	15.00	—
1912-13	17.17	14.67	17.35	15.39	17.75	16.95	18.17	15.57	19.15	16.22	19.40
1913-14	16.80	14.50	17.45	14.80	17.42	15.42	18.30	15.90	—	—	—
Sucrose average	—	13.78	—	14.40	—	15.08	—	15.04	—	15.33	—

Average sucrose for whole crop	1909-10	14.38 per cent.
" " "	1910-11	13.96
" " "	1911-12	14.51
" " "	1912-13	15.01
" " to end of March (?)	1913-14	15.15

Canes grown without irrigation fluctuate in saccharine content with the vicissitudes of season and the above cannot be considered particularly poor juice. From only one of the Estates visited were fibre figures obtained. These were given for the current crop as 14.6 per cent.

Fibre figures at best are only an approximation more or less remote. Assuming—we can only assume—that the fibre in the cane supplied to the second factory for the crop of 1912-13 was 14.5 per cent. the sucrose content of those canes would appear to have been 12.82 per cent.

A brief résumé of the figures for 1913 for 133 Java factories is now available, and it shows that the sugar content of the canes was 12.54 per cent. against 12.35 for the previous year. The highest amount of sugar in the cane was 14.81 per cent., the lowest 9.70 per cent. The average fibre is not given, but it may not be unsafe to assume that it was less than in the Bihar cane and that the juice

contained less sugar. Its average purity was 80.95 per cent. as against 81.3 per cent. in the factory referred to.

If the juice dealt with in these two factories is to be taken as near the average of Bihar juices that district has great possibilities.

#### Sugar Manufacture.

In two factories outside Bihar the appliances for clarification and their arrangement were found not unsatisfactory, but in only one of these did the sulphur box appear to be thoroughly effective.

One factory only of those visited later was using the carbonation process. Of those using sulphur only one was applying it effectively. This must not be taken to mean that its application by means of rough-and-ready furnaces and wooden boxes cannot be made thoroughly effective. Where wooden boxes were used they were found too small. The vent pipe of one was too small to keep the sulphur burning in the furnace. It was therefore useless. One of the shelves of another was at the moment of my visit lying outside the box. Its construction clearly showed the inefficiency of this box. A third was at the moment out of use on account of a broken jet pipe. All were difficult of access for cleaning internally.

In three of the factories the clarifying arrangements consisted of a range of defecators in imitation of the French system. There is no better defecator

than the French when properly arranged in a good light and carefully attended. These are insufficiently lighted where light is most required at the outlet pipes and at night in some of the ranges it must be impossible to obtain a careful separation of the clear juice from the mud or scums.

The "Eliminator" may be expected to correct this; as a matter of fact as now generally constructed it does not.

The mud subsiders in each of these three factories were of wrong dimensions. They could not be used as subsiders, consequently more liquid had to be passed through the filters than should have been and the work was imperfect. In order to correct this, in one case at least, a range of seven subsiders has been erected. It is needless to point to the loss of sugar which must result from the hanging up of so much juice in the factory, and heat, and other losses consequent.

In all the factories visited the Evaporators if kept properly clean seemed to be sufficient for their work. In some cases continuous work was said to be carried on for a couple of weeks. This is certainly not economical and the practice cannot be defended. In sugar factories generally Sunday is the most impor-

tant day of the week, and the time should be fully utilized in cleaning evaporating surfaces and otherwise engaging in works of prevention.

In most of the factories the vacuum pans were of capacity sufficient to deal effectively with the material passed on to them if helped out by crystallizers.

In only two were the crystallizers sufficient in number to insure the maximum reduction of the sucrose in the molasses. The amount of this reduction was not ascertained, but a mere glance at the other installations was enough to show their deficiencies.

#### Quality of Sugar.

This depends to a great extent upon clarification and owing principally to the construction and arrangement of the appliances, clarification was responsible for any shortcomings in the quality of the product. In one small factory where the clarifiers were well arranged and the crystallizers adequate to the work, two sugars were being made and the quality of each was of its kind excellent.

Much has recently been written in reference to the manufacture of white sugar, and all-white-sugar at one operation, but unless the price of the white is far enough above that of the second to compensate for a greater vacuum pan capacity, for extra centrifugals, and greater demands upon the fuel, to say nothing of a decreased extraction, he will be well advised who, having a fair market for second sugar, continues to make it.

#### Sugar Extraction.

With regard to extraction no figures extending over a number of years were obtained, but the condition of the cane yards, the poor crushing, the appliances for treatment of the juices and the shortcomings of the crystallizers taken together are sufficient to account for its being anything but high or satisfactory.

Here the manufacturing figures from Java for the crop of 1913 may again be referred to. The highest percentage of sucrose extracted by the mills from that in the cane was 95.1. This was with 11.11 per cent. of fibre in the canes and 12.7 per cent maceration. The lowest was 84.7 per cent., with 7.91 per cent of fibre. This shows mill work on cane of 84.4 and 78 per cent. respectively.

The working up of the juices appears to have resulted in the following figures:—

White sugar of	99.20	poln.	6.93 per cent
Refining crystals of	97.18	"	1.34 "
Second boilings of	97.61	"	.90 "
Molasses sugar of	86.07	"	.76 "
Black Strop			.05 "
Total			9.98 "

As to the number of crushes to which the cane was subjected to obtain from the mills the results given above, no information has been furnished, but it is probably safe to assume that three was a mini-

mum, and of less frequent occurrence than four or five. No Indian mill as it stands at present can approach this working but the addition of a third or fourth to the double mills now in use and careful feeding would make the approach a very near one, regard being had, of course, to the excess of cellulose in the Indian cane.

The result of the treatment of the Java juice shows that it must have been skilfully handled throughout—the first stage being good clarification.

With a few modifications and additions the Indian factories seen in the early part of March last need be no long way behind Java in the matter of sugar extraction.

### JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD.

#### Their Customs Reports Compared.

The reports of the Customs Department of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago show that the effect of the War on the trade of those Colonies has not been so serious as it was feared it would be. In the case of Jamaica Mr. A. H. Miles, the Collector of Customs, shows that the yield of the import duties for the year was £396,045 against £426,666 collected in the preceding year; a Budget estimate of £440,000 and a revised estimate of £395,000. If further taxation had not been resorted to by the re-imposition of the higher scale of *ad valorem* duties, during the month of September, there would have been a further reduction of yield by a sum of £25,206. The great bulk of this falling off is due to the War, but a fraction is also the result of the better seasonal conditions which prevailed in many parts of the Island during the year, rendering the necessity for resort to imported grain foods less imperative. Under bread and biscuit, flour, meal and rice there was a falling off of £19,906. While some portion of this falling off is without doubt due to the increase of cost brought about by War conditions, the greater portion results from the competition of local food-stuffs. The direct effect of the War on the Colony's chest in relation to imports during eight months may be reckoned at £54,161, a decline which—all things considered—might not unreasonably have been far graver.

The low water mark in the Revenue was reached in November, since which month there has been a tendency to recover. The fact that the import duties are drawn from a community universally poor makes for greater stability than if the people were wealthier and had a larger margin for luxuries, paradoxical though it may seem. The sudden withdrawal of the large Hamburg-American fleet, the later withdrawal of the Royal Mail Company's steamers, the closing of the promising continental market for bananas and the shrinkage of the American market are reflected in the revenues derived from tonnage, which fell from £8,196 to £6,895. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Kingston is still the chief port of entry, being credited with 71 per cent. of the imports; the next

in order being Montego Bay, Port Antonio and Sav-la-Mar.

The falling off in the imports of commercial commodities (i.e., excluding specie and coal) was £337,135; the falling off in food, drink and tobacco, £203,735; in manufactured articles, £238,386, and in miscellaneous, £1,223; while raw material shows increase of £159,640, and bullion and specie increase of £12,078. Considering the great upheaval of all settled conditions during five months of the year these figures are, says Mr. Miles, by no means discouraging and "unless something, at present quite unforeseen, happens there is no reason for believing that the motto of 'Business as usual' will not prevail and that we, as a community, will not easily weather the storm and come through as well as, if not better than, any other outlying fragment of the Empire."

With regard to the direction of trade of the Colony Mr. Miles gives some interesting decennial figures which demonstrate that in forty years Jamaica's trade with the Mother country has diminished by 16.4 per cent. and her imports from Canada by 2.6 per cent., while her relations with the United States have improved by 16.7 per cent, with other countries by 2.1 per cent. With regard to imports, in the course of forty-one years the interests of the Mother country in Jamaica exports have dwindled from 79.2 per cent. to 18.2 per cent.; and on the other hand those of the United States have increased from 1.5 per cent. to 60.9 per cent. With the disturbance of Continental trade the share of "Other Countries" shows a tendency to fall and the Canadian trade shows a fairly stable position, having risen from a fraction of 1 per cent. in 1874 to 7.2 per cent. in the year just past. The transference of trade from the United Kingdom to the United States is more due to the development of the Fruit Industry in supersession of the older industry of sugar manufacture than to actual competition in the same fields, but with the revived interest in sugar and with the active enquiries for dyes on behalf of the United Kingdom it may be expected that the future will see a more even adjustment between our two chief customers. Perhaps, says Mr. Miles, a useful purpose may be served in emphasizing the following as showing considerable increase in value, viz.: Cacao, £48,274; coconuts, £17,672; bauauas, £283,635; hides, £7,022; sugar, £22,962; and logwood, £27,079. The principal decreases are coffee, £22,571 in value, though there was an increase in quantity; grape fruit, £8,863; oranges, £31,595; ginger, £16,853; and pimento, £36,627.

The report of Mr. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Collector of Customs in Trinidad, on the trade of Trinidad and Tobago, is, for the year 1914, and, therefore, covers three months less war conditions than the Jamaica report. Mr. Walcott shows that revenue receipts for the year amounted to £416,748 as compared with £433,276 in 1913, a decrease of £16,528, due to the falling off in the export duties on asphalt, which was responsible for a decrease of

£20,182, the royalty on Asphalt falling off by £6,731, warehouse rents by £178 and harbour dues by £913, which more than wiped out the increase of import duties and miscellaneous receipts of £11,476. The total import duties collected were, *ad valorem* duties £67,162, specific duties £284,145, total £351,307, an increase of £11,352 as compared with 1913, attributable to the more prosperous condition of the Colony consequent on the exceptionally heavy cacao crop reaped during the year, and to a satisfactory increase in the output and value of the sugar industry.

The export of asphalt was 79,963 tons short of 1913, resulting in a decrease of revenue from export duties and royalty as above stated. This industry was seriously crippled by the outbreak of War in August last, which not only closed the European markets, but owing to the financial disturbance caused thereby in the United States, greatly reduced the shipments to that country. The exports for the last five years are shown in the following table:—

	Asphalt Company Tons.	Private Diggers Tons.	Total Tons.
1910	146,748	12,235	158,983
1911	162,675	6,352	169,027
1912	165,697	10,378	176,075
1913	203,072	3,344	206,416
1914	123,619	3,434	126,453

The total value of the imports for the year amounted to £2,930,644, of which £2,888,532 was cleared for home consumption. In addition, goods to the value of £1,294,765 were brought into the Colony for transshipment to other countries, giving a total import trade of £4,183,297, an increase of £59,982 in imports for home consumption, and a decrease of £845,045 in transit goods, or a net decrease, as shown as under, of £785,063 as compared with 1913.

With the exception of flour, fish, oats, &c., the preferential tariff, says Mr. Walcott, does not appear from the above figures to have had the desired effect of transferring to any appreciable extent, the trade in the majority of the preferential articles to the United Kingdom and Canada, the value of the imports from other countries being shown at £521,175 or 48 per cent. of the total imports. Canada has so far made no progress in supplying the Colony with the manufactured articles on which she has been granted a preference, while the preference has had little or no effect in increasing the trade in these articles with the Mother country.

In the last five years the imports from the United Kingdom have fallen from 36.4 to 34.6 per cent. From the United States from 34.5 per cent. to 29.5 per cent., while those from Canada have risen from 5.2 per cent. to 11.3 per cent. The exports to the United Kingdom have fallen from 22.2 per cent. to 19.7 per cent., and those to Canada from 13.2 per cent. to 11.9 per cent., while those to the United States have risen from 34.1 per cent. to 38 per cent. The increase in the import trade from Canada was due to the preference of 1/- per barrel on flour, which has had the effect of trans-

ferring trade in this article from the United States to the Dominion, as shown by the following striking figures :—

	1912.	1913.	1914.
Canada ... ..	£ 56,878	£ 126,356	£ 185,461
United States ...	160,406	118,394	68,778

The figures of imports of preferential articles shows that the effect of the preference on the large majority of the articles has been disappointing, the trade remaining, as before, largely in the hands of the United States.

The most valuable feature of Mr. Walcott's report is the admirable series of eight coloured diagrams which accompanies it, showing the total trade of imports and exports, the average values of the principal exports, the direction of exports, the imports and food stuffs in connection with the population, etc.

### AT WESTMINSTER.

#### Protected Confectioners.

In the House of Commons on July 10th Mr. Nield asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he authorised the letter of the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply, dated the 2nd June, 1915, in which a rebate of 1s. per hundredweight was announced upon sugar purchased on or after the 1st June last, either directly or indirectly, from the stocks put upon the market by the Royal Commission through its authorised agents; and, if so, what was the reason for giving such rebate to confectioners, chocolate manufacturers, and jam makers, and withholding it from other sugar users and the grocery trade; for what purpose was that special rebate made; and what was the reason for giving it to a protected industry at a time when the Prime Minister and other Members of the Government were urging a policy of thrift upon all classes to the community, or was public money to be regarded as being outside the sphere of such exhortations.

Mr. McKenna: The rebate was given to the trade which competes with foreign sugared goods imported into this country, in order to put it on a footing of equality with its foreign competitors. The rebate represents the difference in the average price at which sugar could have been bought forward to supply the British market and the actual price at which it is now sold. A further consideration arose out of the fact that the sugar using trade has a large export business and would have had a claim to a rebate on export unless sugar was sold to them at the price at which it could have been generally obtained by forward purchase.

Mr. Nield: Do I understand that the rebate is confined entirely to those trades which have an export business and because of the export business?

Mr. McKenna: It is confined to those trades which have to compete with foreign imported goods and which have an export business.

[The confectioners and sugar using trades were first allowed a rebate of 3/- per cwt. on Mauritius sugar supplied to them. When the supply of this sugar was exhausted they were allowed a rebate of 1/- per cwt. on sugar not higher in quality than White Java supplied to them by the Commission. If it is necessary to give confectioners a rebate to compensate them for having to compete with foreign sugared goods, the natural assumption is that the latter are made from cheaper sugar than the British confectioner can buy. This being the case, the contention that consumers in this country are getting sugar cheaper than they would otherwise do owing to the operations of the Government sugar trust is not upheld.—ED.]

#### Colonial Defences.

On July 5th Mr. Joynson-Hicks asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Colonial Office had considered the position of many of our Crown Colonies in the matter of defence; and whether he would appoint a Commission to formulate a scheme for the training of all able-bodied Englishmen in such Colonies able to bear arms.

Mr. Bonar Law, in reply, said: The question of the defence of the Colonies which do not possess responsible government has been carefully considered in consultation with the naval and military authorities. My hon. friend's suggestion is, I think, impracticable, for even if the principle of universal military training were accepted, the details would necessarily have to be worked out locally with due regard to local circumstances.

#### Home Produced Beet Sugar.

On July 5th Mr. Anderson asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, whether, of the 1,600,000 tons of beet sugar imported from Europe before the War, 1,200,000 tons came from Germany and Austria; whether France has 209 beet factories, Russia 294 beet factories, Germany 341 beet factories, and Britain only one factory in a half-moribund condition; whether he was now in a position to announce any policy with regard to the cultivation of sugar beet as a new industry; whether he would be prepared to consider the question of establishing experimental farms and factories; and whether the Development Fund would be available for this purpose.

Mr. Acland (Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Agriculture), in reply, said: The figures quoted by my hon. Friend are approximately correct. The question of the policy of establishing sugar beet factories by State assistance is not one for the Board of Agriculture alone, but it appears doubtful whether the extra output of sugar that might be expected during the period of War would justify large expenditure as an emergency measure; and the times are hardly favourable for a large expenditure of capital on buildings and machinery, whether through the Development Commission or otherwise, for any object not immediately connected with the War. The matter is, however, under the close attention of the President of the Board.

Mr. Montagu (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), replying to Mr. Ronald McNeill on July 5th, said that since the formation of the War Trade Department there had not been any prohibition of export to Scandinavian countries and Holland affecting tea or cacao except cocoa powder. Fifteen licences had been granted to eleven firms for the export of cocoa powder to those countries, including five licences for Iceland and the Faroe Islands. The maximum quantity authorised to be exported under the fifteen licences was 265 tons 3 cwt.

Mr. E. D. LABORDE, whose Colonial career, which began in Tobago in 1882, has been mainly in the Windward Islands, has been appointed Treasurer of Grenada.

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## SOME NATURE NOTES.

The *Monthly Bulletin* gives some interesting results, obtained in 1912 and 1913, from the manuring of coffee trees in San Paulo. The plantation was fifty years old and completely impoverished. Each manured tree received 1.2 lbs. of a fertilizer containing 50 per cent. of potash, 33 per cent. of phosphoric acid and 17 per cent. of nitrogen. The unmanured plot in 1912 had a single dressing of stable manure and coffee hulls. The results from 960 plants showed that the manured plants gave 21.92 cwt. of coffee, average 8.5 bushels to the cwt., while the unmanured plant gave 11.5 cwt., with 10.1 bushels to the cwt.

\* \* \*

In the current number of the *International Sugar Journal* Dr. W. E. Cross reviews the question of the recovery, commercially, of the wax which occurs on the outer surface of the stalk of sugar canes, and comes to the conclusion that no practically successful method has yet been devised for its mechanical separation; and that the extraction and disposal of the crude wax obtained from filter cake by solvents would probably be unprofitable; that only a relatively small yield of pure wax is obtained from the crude, and that pure cane wax is best obtained from the juice by centrifugal action, the crude product being purified by crystallisation from denatured alcohol.

\* \* \*

A CORRESPONDENT in *The Tropical Agriculturist* has given an account of his experiences of catch crops in connection with rubber. Ground-nuts gave a disappointing return of 580 lbs. to the acre, and the reason is assigned that the soil was deficient in lime. The only product which proved a distinct success was ginger, which gave 3,400 lbs. per acre. 100 lbs. of the raw roots gave 20 to 25 lbs. dry ginger, at a cost of 1/8. The growth of rubber was not affected, although the ginger was planted right up to its stem. Robusta coffee was also a success. With the rubber planted at 30 feet apart, one row of coffee would not be injurious to the rubber.

\* \* \*

WRITING in the *Monthly Bulletin*, Professor W. B. Bottomley says that during the germination of wheat seeds certain substances are formed which enable the young embryo to utilize the food materials present. The supply of these substances formed by the seed during germination being sufficient to establish the embryo as an independent seedling, after which some other source is necessary. These accessory food substances are produced when peat is acted upon by certain soil bacteria, and, says Professor Bottomley, the natural inference is that during the bacterial decomposition of the organic matter in the soil—that is, during humus formation, the substances are formed, hence the beneficial effect of farmyard and other organic manures.

## COLONIAL REPORT.

## Turks and Caicos Islands.

Mr. C. Whitfield Smith took over the government of this dependency of Jamaica from Mr. F. H. Watkins, who had administered it since 1906, in December, 1914. During an interregnum of five months Mr. H. H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner, controlled the destinies of the island. During the year the revenue exceeded the estimate, but fell short of the figure of 1913, which was stimulated by the sales of the new postage stamps issued in that year. The following table gives the Revenue and expenditure and imports and exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1910	8,646	6,827	27,916	24,461
1911	8,318	7,695	24,722	23,703
1912	8,215	8,092	27,662	25,947
1913	10,867	8,505	30,231	27,808
1914	9,951	9,391	28,192	28,348

Considering that there is no direct taxation and that the Customs tariff, the chief source of revenue, is the lowest, and the "free" list the largest, of any in the West Indies, Mr. Whitfield Smith regards the financial condition of the Dependency as satisfactory. The trade of the islands is mainly with the United States.

The exports in the last five years have been as follows:—

Articles.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt: coarse	12,902	15,257	14,918	17,601	15,000
Salt, fishery	1,087	4,246	3,685	5,429	5,948
Sisal	7,351	1,225	4,718	Nil.	2,212
Sponges	1,316	1,530	1,451	1,835	2,140
Conches	559	743	553	270	566
Canned lobster	28	42	56	272	558
Miscellaneous	346	702	622	2,671	1,022

Commendable efforts continue to be made by salt producers to extend the trade in fine or "fishery" salt, and the results are encouraging. The danger of depleting the sponge beds by the gathering of immature sponges is recognised and legislative measures to put a stop to such folly are foreshadowed. The development of the canned lobster trade is noteworthy. With the closing days of December favourable prices for sisal were quoted in the American market, and it is hoped that the current year will see a resumption of work at the factory of the East Caicos Company, on which a large number of labourers in the Caicos Islands depend for employment.

A SEPTIC tank syphon for the disposal of sewage is in contemplation at Georgetown, British Guiana, at a cost of \$192,000; the three suburban districts of Queenstown, Wortmanville, Albouystown will not be included in the scheme. The idea is not original, as it was first proposed by Mr. L. M. Hill, the late town superintendent, as far back as 1897.



## NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE R.M.S. *Magdalena* will sail for the West Indies on August 25th in place of the *Tagus*.

THE engagement is announced of the Rev. C. G. Roffe-Silvester, of Trinity College, and of Shorncliffe House, Hindhead, Surrey, to Viola Elkah Vivian, eldest daughter of the Ven. F. P. I. Josa, late Archdeacon and Vicar-General of Guiana.

IN the curious phraseology of the law the Right Rev. John Joseph Collins, Bishop of Antipholos, is now a Corporation Solicitor, the Legislature having passed a law incorporating him and his successors Roman Catholic Bishop and Vicar Apostolic in Jamaica.

THE *Catmact*, a large four-masted schooner, recently ascended the St. Lawrence River as far as Montreal, where her arrival caused no small stir, it being many years since such a vessel made the voyage. She carried 2,400 puncheons, 400 tierces and 390 barrels of molasses, consigned to the West India Company, Ltd.

IN his report on Excise for 1914, Mr. E. D. Laborde, till lately Treasurer of St. Lucia, complains of the labyrinth of legislation with regard to excise and liquor licences. There are at present no fewer than twelve ordinances in force with respect to these, and one cannot help feeling, with Mr. Laborde, that the time is overdue for the introduction of up-to-date excise and liquor licence ordinances to take the place of the present obsolete patchwork.

THERE is a chance of the Cantley Sugar Factory in Norfolk beginning a new life. The Kelly Trading Company, otherwise known as Kelly's Directories, Ltd., have obtained an option on it, and hope to induce the Norfolk farmers to supply sufficient beets for its satisfactory work. The company is to be all-British, and one of the directors of Kelly's Trading Company, Mr. de Toll, addressing a farmers' meeting at Norfolk, said that the case was not one of company promoting, but that the new company intended to run the factory on co-operative lines and to give 10 per cent. of the profits to the farmer supplying the beet. Another meeting is to be held at the end of the month.

AT the annual meeting of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, the President, Sir H. Ledgard, in his opening speech, for an account of which we are indebted to the *Indian Trade Journal*, referred to the subject of sugar, and said that it was to be hoped that those responsible for framing the fiscal policy of the Empire would take steps to see that as regards sugar we should not be again dependent to a serious extent on the production of foreign

countries. "I see," he said, "that a movement is now on foot in the United Kingdom to promote the cultivation of beetroot sugar, and has no doubt received considerable stimulus from the situation at the outbreak of the War. There are, however, numerous powerful arguments against such a course as compared with the expansion of sugar-cane within the Empire, and it is to be hoped that the possibilities of India as a sugar producing country will not be lost sight of."

IT is satisfactory to note that the fighting spirit is still strong in our old friend Mr. George Martineau, C.B. In the *International Sugar Journal* for July he writes *à propos* of the effects of the War on our sugar supply:—

"It is pretty evident . . . that if the British Empire had been a larger producer of cane sugar, and if the soil of the British Isles had been producing, as with our Continental neighbours, its quota of beetroot sugar, we should not have suffered quite so much from these quakings in the sugar market. Let us make more cane sugar in our tropical possessions, and let us seriously undertake to compete with our European friends (and enemies) in the production of beetroot sugar. There has been too much of the hesitation and beating about the bush which seems to be a national bad habit with us. We should shake it off and come to business, as we are doing now, with some purpose, with other and more serious forms of the same constitutional infirmity. We have discovered at last—and not too soon—that action, not talk, is necessary if we are to win this War. The same may be said about sugar; we want deeds, not words, if we are to make our own sugar and be free from fears of scarcity in the future."

THE *Gardeners' Chronicle* describes a new method of destroying insects in seeds. An iron cylinder 3 feet long by 1 foot in diameter is taken. One end is permanently closed and the other, which is flanged, fitted with a brass plate which can be clamped by means of screws. In the bottom of the cylinder cyanide of potassium is placed. The seeds are placed in a canvas bag in the cylinder, which is then closed. A vacuum is then produced by means of a vacuum pump attached to a cock in the cylinder. When an almost complete vacuum is obtained, the connection with the pump is closed, and dilute acid is run in by another connection on to the cyanide, and the connection closed. After half an hour the acid and pump cocks are opened and the vacuum pump started to draw air through the cylinder. The discharging pipe of the vacuum pump must, of course, open outside the building.

UP to the time of going to press no news had been received regarding the homeward R.M.S. *Victoria*, which left the Azores on July 22nd. This and the *Panama* are the steamers which, it is understood, it is proposed to use regularly on the West Indian route for the present.

THE "Cane Sugar Factory" is a manual which is enjoying much popularity on sugar estates in every part of the world. To overseers learning their work it is quite invaluable. The author of the book, which is neatly bound in cloth, is Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., and its cost is 1s., or post free 1s. 2d.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE march of nearly 40,000 women through the streets of London on Saturday, July 17th, revived memories of the pre-War suffrage movement. But the object of the demonstrators on this occasion was not immediately to claim the vote, but to assert their right to work for their country. The procession was watched by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill from a platform in the grounds of the Munitions Department overlooking the Embankment. In the course of the afternoon the Minister of Munitions reminded a deputation, headed by Mrs. Pankhurst, which waited on him, of the existing prejudices against the employment of women in workshops, but promised that steps would be at once taken to train a number of women to direct and instruct female labour.

To the immense gathering on the Embankment he subsequently said that in France hundreds of thousands of women were working in the factories and workshops which turned out war material, and that in this country the Government proposed to utilise the services of everybody who was prepared to assist. He had felt confident that the great nation which overthrew many a despotism in Europe before with its own right hand would do so again. Mr. Lloyd George's remarks were greeted with cheers, and it was impossible to avoid comparing the demeanour of the women towards the Minister with their attitude towards him before the great European struggle began last year. To quote a woman processionist, "It was a strange sight to see Mr. Lloyd George fearlessly fraternizing with Mrs. Pankhurst; it was as if Daniel had invited the lion to his den."

Sir Robert Borden, whose arrival in this country synchronised with the release for publication of the announcement of his departure for England, which was wisely "held up" by the Censor, has not had many spare moments since he reached London. The intimation that he had been invited to attend, and had attended, a meeting of the Cabinet, was well received by the Press of all parties. In the Colonies it will give rise to general satisfaction, and the hope will be uppermost that the precedent thus established will be followed up and that statesmen from the Dominions and Colonies will in future be called to our Councils as a matter of right. On July 19th the Canadian Premier, accompanied by General Sam Hughes and Sir George Perley, the High Commissioner, motored to Shorncliffe and reviewed the Canadian troops who are quartered there. Later in the week he crossed the Channel and received a cordial welcome from the Canadians in Flanders. Beyond a function arranged by the Imperial Parliamentary Association at St. Stephen's there has been none of the usual banqueting and speechifying.

The National Register will soon be in course of preparation and when it is completed there will, it

is hoped, be some co-ordination among the numbers of people who, while incapacitated for military service, are eager to "do their bit." Meanwhile the so-called leisured classes are adopting some unwonted professions. Eton boys are making shells, stockbrokers—now very much leisured—munitions of war, women fuses; and now we learn that Mr. R. J. Warner, lineal descendant of Sir Thomas Warner of St. Kitts, and own brother of "Plum," has become a cook. Appreciating that the gastronomic requirements of the new multitudes of munition workers will need attention, he has passed a cookery course and now betakes himself daily to the kitchens of Chelsea Barracks to polish up his knowledge. It is said that he can already cook a loin chop against the best chef of the Grenadier Guards.

Instead of the usual survey of the development of the Colonies to which we were accustomed in Mr. Harcourt's time, Mr. Bonar Law reviewed the progress of the War in Germany's overseas possessions in introducing the Colonial Office vote on July 21st. The story which he had to tell recalled the glories of the past and no one would challenge his statement that the same spirit which was shown by our forefathers overseas, the spirit for instance which took Clive from the desk, and made him conquer and retain the Indian Empire, was never stronger or more marked than it is throughout the British Empire to-day.

Public buildings and private hoardings are now liberally adorned with the posters inviting all and sundry to provide "silver bullets" by investing in the War Loan through the Post Offices. The word "adorned" is used advisedly, for many of the posters, which are issued by the War Savings Committee, like the recruiting bills of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, have considerable artistic merit. Rigid economy is now the order of the day and the feeling is now general that the Members of Parliament should set a good example in this direction by foregoing the £400 a year salary which they voted to themselves. The proposed pension of £1,200 a year to a retiring minister has been killed by the protest against it in the Press.

The Theatrical Garden Party, an annual event which is eagerly looked forward to by devotees of the stage, was duly held at the Royal Botanic Gardens—the scene of the West Indian Club's Garden Party of a few years back—on July 20th. Many theatrical celebrities were present and the charities connected with the Profession were substantially benefited by the proceeds of many amusing "side shows," not the least successful of which was the skit on Henry VIII., "Him of Eight."

The new edition of "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies" is obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Danube*, which was due on July 8th, arrived at London on Sunday, July 11th. We regret to say that Mr. Alefounder, the owner of Studley Park Estate in Trinidad, who left Trinidad in her, died between Barbados and the Azores. Otherwise the voyage was marked by no untoward incident.

### ANTIGUA—Sugar for the Wallaceburg Factory.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, JUNE 20th.—The weather during the fortnight has been very favourable for the growing crop, fine rains having fallen all over the island. The young canes are coming on apace; but we must not forget that August and September are critical months for the cane grower. The Circuit Court is still sitting, and Sir Frederick Maxwell has had no rest since his return.

An interesting development in connection with sugar shipments has taken place, some 500 tons of grey crystals having been shipped by the ss. *Guiana* via New York to Wallaceburg, Ontario. Another 500 tons is booked for the next steamer of the Quebec Line. [Wallaceburg is the refinery which usually handles beet sugar. Until December 31st, 1914, it enjoyed the privilege of importing on the terms of the British Preferential Tariff two tons of sugar for every ton of Canadian beet worked up.—RD.] The merchant cruiser ———, chartered by the Admiralty, has loaded 1,000 tons of grey crystals for London. Crops are drawing to a close. I am afraid Gunthorpe's will not reach their estimate. Estates have fallen far short of their expected tonnage. Quite a number of "outside" estates have sold canes to the factory. So although the island crop will be a short one, Gunthorpe's will have a good year, although perhaps not so good as expected.

### BARBADOS—The Growing Crops Healthy.

The Barbados *Advocate* mail edition records that during June there was scarcely a day without a shower, while the heat has also been intense. A comparatively large area of canes still remains to be reaped, and the roads in some districts have been badly cut up by carts hauling canes from long distances to the factories, which, owing to the intermittent supply, have in some cases been unable to purchase. The growing crops are everywhere healthy, vigorous, and full of spring.

The Colonial Office having announced that the formation of a West Indian contingent is under consideration, the Recruiting Committee, which was accepting volunteers for British line regiments, has suspended operations pending the receipt of the new enlistment conditions.

Mr. E. G. Sinckler, Magistrate of District R, and compiler of the Barbados Handbook, has undergone an operation in the private ward of the General Hospital.

### BRITISH GUIANA—The Demerara Contingent.

MR. J. C. MCGOWAN, JUNE 26th.—The weather during the fortnight has been fine and bright, with occasional showers. In view of the fact that the balance at the credit of the Immigration Fund Account will be over \$2,000,000, the British Guiana Planters' Association has asked the Government to reduce the Indenture Fee for this and the following season from \$60 to \$40, or lower if possible. Up to the present over 250 applications for enrolment in the Demerara contingent for active service have been received by the authorities, and they are now being medically examined.

### DOMINICA—The New Road Roller at Work.

MR. E. A. AGAR, JUNE 25th.—The new petrol road roller is already at work. The excessive rains of three weeks ago have caused serious landslips, particularly on the Imperial Road. Landslips on new roads must continue for some years, but end in time except in rare cases. Meanwhile they interfere badly with the work of reconstruction. The past ten days have been fine on the whole, but rain is be-

ginning again. The vital statistics for last year have been published, showing an estimated population on December 31st of 36,645. The birth-rate increased from 34.70 the previous year to 37.84 per 1,000, while the death-rate decreased from 24.17 to 20.30. The deaths of infants under one year is terrible, 21.63 of the total being in this class. Our late Magistrate, Mr. Wigley, who compiled these figures, has for the first time procured some immigration and emigration figures, showing that arrivals exceeded the departures by 760. I am glad to see this very important fact regarding the population at last taken into consideration. One would like to see fuller details; possibly they are filed for use though not published.

### JAMAICA—More Compliments for the Committee.

MESSRS. J. E. KERR & CO., MONTEGO BAY, JUNE 30th.—We very much appreciate the way in which the West India Committee have protected the interests of the rum manufacturers in the West Indies in connection with the Immature Spirits Restriction Bill. Under the present form of the Bill, it can practically have little effect on the manufacturers of rum here, for we understand that the nine months for the maturity of the rum dates from the time it goes into bond in Jamaica. Taking into consideration the time of the shipment and the present methods of shipping, we feel sure that this Bill will not affect the manufacturers here materially; and we very much appreciate the action of the West India Committee in this matter.

There has been a great deal of activity lately in every parish of the Island in regard to the proposed contingent from Jamaica to serve at the Front. Viewed from the point of the number of applications that have gone forward for enlistment, the patriotism of the people could not be more strongly demonstrated. We trust that arrangements will be made for a regiment of West Indians, and we feel sure that our men will go forward with the most ardent spirit. We must also here again thank the West India Committee for the kind offer of their services in regard to this contingent. The activities lately of the West India Committee certainly make us feel that our interests are being closely guarded.

### ST. KITTS—Local Dramatic Talent.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, JUNE 24th.—The Central Factory has closed crop with an output of 6,100 odd tons sugar made, or about the same return as last year, but from a considerably larger area. Both with respect to weight and yield the canes have been very disappointing this season, and the island crop will be an abnormally short one, for one hears the same complaint from the estates still making Muscovado. It is fortunate for all concerned that prices are good. It is very hot just now, and getting dry, but the weather to the present has been favourable for the growing canes, and the young crop generally round the island is looking well. A locally written play, "A Lord of the Isles," by Mr. H. C. Dickson, and presented by Mr. D. T. Delany, both of the Central Factory Staff, is to be given to-night at the Grammar School, and our local play-goers are mildly excited at the prospect of hearing something original and amusing.

### ST. VINCENT—Mr. Popham Lobb's Arrival.

MR. W. N. SANDS, JUNE 26th.—Mr. R. Popham Lobb, our new Administrator, arrived on the 15th inst. from Bermuda. He visited Georgetown a few days ago. Alexandra Day was celebrated as last year, and the efforts of the Committee of local ladies met with a gratifying success, the proceeds of the sale of roses, etc., realising over £20. Good planting weather has been experienced. There are indications that "worms" may be more prevalent than usual this season. Already a good deal of damage has been done by an "Army worm" at Bequia, and special methods have had to be undertaken by the Agricultural Department to deal with it.

### TOBAGO—Timber Planting on the Increase.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JUNE 24th.—Since last mail the weather has been far too dry, with only light occasional showers, while vegetation needs heavy rains at this season.

The rainfall for June to date is only 2.73 inches, while the heat is rather trying for mankind as well as the cultivation. Planters rather dread another change of leaves, which would put back the cacao crop another two months; but some thunder last week seems to indicate the approach of the usual seasonable rains. Meantime the young crop is showing up well, and the native provision gardens look promising, although there are complaints about plants withering in exposed places, and supplying is impossible while this dry spell lasts. You may be interested to hear that timber planting is on the increase, even the natives planting cedar in exposed places unfit for the usual cultivated crops. In this they are following the lead of some of the large proprietors in this district. As usual, there is a rush to pay taxes before June 30th, and it is hoped that there will be fewer defaulters than in 1914. Forgetfulness no doubt accounts for some defaulters, but there seems to be a lack of facilities for paying taxes in the out districts, or a lack of advertising such facilities as are afforded. Our Commissioner Warden (Mr. Strange) and Captain Short, of Richmond, have been on the outlook for volunteers for the expected contingent from the united colony, and doubtless a few will be forthcoming. There is no difficulty about physique, or perhaps enthusiasm, but discipline and training would be a slow process after the easy-going lives enjoyed by the majority of the natives. Last week Mr. Bell, Director of Public Works, paid his usual visit of inspection, and was accompanied by Mrs. Bell and Mr. Hitchens, D.O., their journey extending to Man-o'-War Bay, where they enjoyed sea-bathing under the best of conditions. This week's steamer brought Mrs. Bushe, wife of the esteemed Auditor-General, and her daughter, the latter just recovering from rather a serious illness. Trinidadians are gradually finding out what a fine health resort they have in Tobago, and how enjoyable a trip can be on board the fine coastal steamer *Barima*.

#### TRINIDAD—Two Record Sugar Crops.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JUNE 28th.—The figures relating to the trade of the colony for year ending 31st December last were published some time ago, but owing, I understand, to pressure of work at the Government printing office (a most efficient establishment, by the way), the accompanying report of the Collector of Customs has only now been issued. The gross receipts show a decrease of £16,528, but it is satisfactory to note that this is not accounted for by a diminution of imports the revenue from which amounted to £351,297, or £11,352 more than in 1913. The loss occurs in the export duty and royalty on Asphalt, the trade in which was nearly paralysed for some time after the outbreak of War. The same remark applies to exports. While the gross total was £4,201,341 against £5,205,673, or a falling off of £1,004,332, the actual exports of local produce were £2,484,576 against £2,344,576, or an increase of £14,210 on previous year—a remarkably good showing for a War season. The decrease in the total arose from a considerable shortage in re-exports and transport goods, as was to be expected. The value of trade with Canada has largely improved both in imports and exports, but almost altogether in foodstuffs. Neither Canadian nor British manufacturers seem to have taken advantage to any appreciable extent of the tariff in their favour. But the results on the whole fully justify Mr. Walcott's remark that as soon, after the declaration of War, "as the financial position in the United Kingdom and the United States was adjusted, credit and confidence was again restored, and the general trade and industries of the colony, with but few exceptions, resumed normal conditions." A final paragraph of unusual significance will probably induce comment. The Collector says: "I found it necessary, in view of recent defalcations . . . to make arrangements for a more detailed check of the financial transactions of the Department, by the Officers of the Department, and not to rely to the extent as has been hitherto done on the check exercised by the Audit Office. The report, together with the arrangement of the voluminous figures and statistics, are alike admirable, and reflect the greatest credit on Mr. Walcott and his able staff. The Department is a difficult one to handle, coming as it does in such constant touch with the public, but it has

earned and enjoys the confidence of the entire mercantile community.

Madeleine Estates Company has exceeded all previous records with an output of 17,000 tons. Waterloo, whose enterprising Attorney, Mr. Carlee, extended the cane farming cultivation so largely last year, has the satisfaction of turning out 7,415 tons, or about 2,000 tons over 1914—quite a nice haul with prices as they are.

As evidence of how the Standard Oil Company appreciate the act of the Government in taxing local oil and gasoline to the same extent as the imported article, their agents here received the following consignment the other day, in one ship:—7,000 cases kerosene oil, 200 cases and 100 drums gasoline, etc.

An extraordinary meeting of the Legislative Council was held on 25th inst., and proved specially interesting. The Governor made the expected statement as to Trinidad's contingent. The Finance Committee, His Excellency said, was in possession of the correspondence, which was confidential. The conditions of service were not yet settled, but meanwhile they would be glad to register names of those willing to go. A Central Recruiting Board would be formed consisting of the Commandant of the Forces, the Surgeon-General, a member of the Finance Committee, and himself. A question was raised whether the expenses will be from the funds of the colony or from public subscription. The Senior Unofficial, Mr. Alcazar, confirmed what His Excellency had said as to the confidential nature of the communications, and he was certain when the statement was made public it would be found that His Excellency could not have acted differently. Result—we are as wise as we were before, and time is flying.

The Receiver-General announced that the Debenture list had been closed since June 14th. Four per cent. interest would be paid. There would be 575 Debentures of £100 and 638 at £20. Some of the applicants are asking whether, in view of the Imperial rate being now 4½ per cent., the rate here will remain 4 per cent. The reply is that no expense attaches to the allotment, and the interest is free of income tax.

The Public Health Ordinance, quite a venerable friend, at last passed into law, but will not be put in force for some time, on financial reasons. Dr. Prada, with the full sympathy of his fellow members, said that he felt the parting with sincere regret. The Ordinance had formed part of his life for the past eight or nine years. Others rose to the occasion and said nice things, and His Excellency thanked everybody for their labour of years if not of love. Thus a Bill which meant well, but has caused more heart-burning than any of recent times, goes forth for better or worse. Six months' notice will be given before bringing it into operation.

Regarding Sir Norman Lamont's request for a Commission to enquire into the working of the Government Railway, the Government found there was not sufficient reason for that course, but a report by the General Manager on the subject would be laid. In the second reading of an Ordinance to provide for the manner of conducting Municipal elections, the Council went into Committee, and, on the motion of the Director of Public Works, the section giving the vote to women was deleted. Sir Norman Lamont protested against an amendment of this kind affecting existing legislation without giving notice of its far-reaching character on the Agenda. It seemed a considerable miscarriage of justice. The Governor ruled that the Director of Public Works was not bound to give notice.

Personally, I do not think Trinidad women care a rap for the vote. It has been forced on them. All the same, it was rather astonishing to find Mr. Bell, the champion stickler for the rules, conventions, and etiquette of the Council, springing this catch vote on his unsuspecting *colleagues*, and I fancy we have not heard the last of it.

The Midsummer Races, under the auspices of the Trinidad Breeders' Association, were held on Saturdays, 10th and 26th inst., and were quite successful. A number of two-year-old thoroughbreds recently imported had the chance of showing their quality, and satisfied owners and public that a further useful introduction of bloodstock has been made through the Breeders' Association. A novel feature was the holding of a ladies' race, which excited

much interest. It resulted in a dead-heat. In the run-over, Miss Greenidge, who is known as one of the best horsewomen in the colony, won by a small margin. The second race day was also made an Alexandra Day, and through the town and in the race stand a number of very charming ladies reaped a rich harvest for the good cause from a greater number of susceptible but not unwilling males.

**TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS—Canned Lobsters.**

**DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, GRAND TURK, JULY 14.**—The weather during May was somewhat oppressive and dry. The maximum temperature was 89° and the minimum 69° Fahr. The total rainfall registered by the U.S. Weather Bureau was only .25 of an inch. On May 13th the wrecking tug "Rescue" arrived from Norfolk, Va., and, having proceeded to North Caicos, successfully refloated the stranded steamer "Anita," and brought her to Grand Turk on May 18th.

Business generally has been somewhat dull owing to the merchants being out of salt, and the season not being far enough advanced to allow of a start being made to rake this season's crop. Vessels arriving for salt have been sent to East Harbour for loading, where they have about half a million bushels on hand. The merchants are hoping that owing to the scarcity of Mediterranean salt on the market they may be able to command a somewhat higher price. At Salt Cay they are somewhat further advanced with this season's crop, and started raking generally the last week of May. Fibre is still being extracted both at Jacksonville, East Caicos, and at Grand Turk, and with the rain of the previous months the plants look strong and healthy, and the fibre extracted is of good quality. Several orders have been received from Great Britain and the United States for sponge, and it is expected large shipments will be made in the near future. The Caicos Development Company shipped a consignment of canned lobster to the United States, and have orders in hand for all they can prepare.

His Honour the Commissioner informs us that Messrs. Pickford & Black, of Halifax, N.S., have agreed to permit the ss. *Amanda* to call at Grand Turk both south and north bound in return for an increased subsidy of £20 monthly. This will be a great convenience, as we have been deprived of fresh vegetables and fruit and many other items of food since the vessel ceased calling. Parcels post from England and also newspapers of the heavier type have been held back on the same account. We have been completely cut off as regards mail communication from Jamaica.

The Commissioner has purchased a small cotton gin, and is preparing a sample of cotton grown in the Dependency for shipment to England. He tells us that so far he is very much pleased with his undertaking, and that a good grade of cotton could be grown in quantities large enough to warrant the purchase of a small engine to run the gin.

Many of the small landowners in the Caicos Islands are planting on a small scale, but whether they can be induced to go in for it so as make it a success remains to be seen. The telephone system now being erected will, it is expected, soon be completed and in working order.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR.**

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR  
**The Barbados Ambulance.**

Dear Sir,—It will no doubt interest you and our fellow members in Barbados to know of the excellent work their Motor Ambulance is doing. It plies daily between the second Canadian Hospital at Le Touquet and Boulogne—a distance of about 20 miles—under the capable charge of Sergeant Lancefield. My son in the Gordons, having been seriously wounded at the Front, was one of the many to benefit by its fast and efficient service, of which he cannot speak too highly. This I can also vouch for from personal experience, having this week made a trip in it to Boulogne I am, etc.,

G. MACGREGOR FRANK

21, Mincing Lane, E.C.  
21st July, 1915.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

**The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.**

The production for week ended Wednesday, 7th July, was 663 tons. For the following week the production was 792 tons.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Paid
4 %	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	July 26
4 %	Barbados 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	95
3 1/2 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1935	86 1/2
3 1/2 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	94
4 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	74 1/2
4 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1934	97 1/2
4 %	Jamaica 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
4 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95 1/2
4 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
4 %	Trinidad 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
4 %	The Colonial Bank	4 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	73 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	80 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	80
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	92
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	14 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	77 1/2
7 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	31
7 %	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	1 1/2
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	28
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	102
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	74
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	85
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	100
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. Pref.	100
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd "	100
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	99 1/2

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Danube* Tilbury, London, July 12th:—**

Rev. A. H. Anstey	Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Hancock	Mrs. K. Ozanne
Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Dunlop	Mr. H. A. Harris	Mr. H. Parker
Hon. & Mrs. P. J. Dean	Mr. R. B. Hughes	Mr. M. Panday
Mr. A. Fraser	Mr. A. Joseph	Mr. W. H. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. E. Fitzgerald	Mr. P. Knight	Hon. W. J. Robson
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. N. E. Lamont	Mr & Mrs. E. Russell
Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Humphreys	Misses Lamont (2)	Miss Russell
Mr. M. Moody-Stuart	Mr. J. F. L. Lampert	Mr. C. Sim
Mr. N. J. Tauril	Mr. L. Larson	Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Smith
Miss K. M. Bushe	Mr. E. W. Middleton	Mr. H. Smart
Mr. F. Beddoe	Mr. J. P. G. Munro	Mr. C. Sumfildford
Mr. G. W. Batchelor	Mr. H. de Minville	Mr. L. N. Temprow
Miss G. Corder	Mr. W. McKenzie	Mr. T. F. Town
Mr. S. Cunningham	Mr. D. Morton	Mr. A. L. Vaughan
Mr. A. Clench	Mr. & Mrs. J. McGill	Capt. E. C. Wakeman
Mr. W. Dunn	Mr. H. Norman	Mrs. L. Wrong
Mr. H. W. Dillon	Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Osborn	Mrs. G. M. Whiteman
Dr. J. L. Faillie	Miss Osborn	Rev. J. C. Wippell
Mr. P. Godecharle	Miss Osborn	Mrs. S. A. Webb
		Mr. G. Wylie
		Miss C. G. Wylie

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Danube*, July 28th:—**

Rev. A. H. Anstey	Mrs. E. de Monagas	Mr. & Mrs. H. I. Humphreys
Mr. A. Flint	Miss D. Monagas	Mr. W. H. Cook
Mr. J. T. Greg	Miss de Boissiere	Mr. J. B. Dopwell
Mrs. V. G. Byas	Rev. Father J. Deles	
Mr. C. H. Rostron		

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Ortega*, August 12th:—**

Mr. D. T. Fraser	Mr. & Mrs. J. Miller, Jr.	Mr. C. E. Blacker
Mr. W. Skinner	Mr. & Mrs. E. Pugsley	Miss E. M. Gyle

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                       |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. A. K. Agar        | Mr. J. A. Gordon    | Mr. W. F. Samuels   |
| H. E. Sir H. Hesketh  | Mr. G. Graf         | Mr. C. W. Scott     |
| Bell, K. C. M. G.     | Mr. John T. Greig   | Mr. R. B. Short     |
| Mr. A. Campbell       | Mr. A. T. Hammond   | Mr. W. Smith        |
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| Mr. Cecil H. Chambers | Mr. A. S. Kemahap   | J.S.O.              |
| Ron. P. J. Dean       | His Honour Leslie   | and                 |
| Mr. T. L. Dunsire     | Jarvis              | Mr. H. Graham Year- |
| Mr. E. Fitzgerald     | Mr. M. Moody-Stuart | wood                |
| Mr. W. M. Fletcher    | Mr. A. E. Perkins   |                     |
| Mr. J. M. Fleming     | Mr. W. C. Robertson |                     |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.  
 Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. H. C. Morcom, Great Meols, Cheshire.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE**—Continues at 5 per cent. as from the 8th August, 1914. Old War Loan is quoted at 93½; Consols stand at 65.

**SUGAR**—Up to the week ending the 17th inst., the Cuban production had reached 2,384,000 tons as against 2,430,000 tons for nearest date of last year. Twelve factories were then still at work, compared with five last year. The shipments to Europe out of the current crop up to the 3rd had been, according to Mr. Himely, 230,449 tons, as against 274,349 tons for the whole crop of last year. Out of this quantity, 224,459 tons have come to the United Kingdom, as against 236,408 tons for the entirety of last crop. As the stocks in the Island on the 3rd amounted to 652,333 tons, with a further 120,000 tons at least to be made, there still remains room for further shipments on account of the Sugar Commission to this country. At present the field prospects for next crop are satisfactory, and with normal returns and extensions in operations, a crop of at least 2,700,000 tons should be realised. It is, however, early days to prophesy in this direction.

In a report on the subject of the prospects of the sugar market which recently appeared in a contemporary, 200,000 to 300,000 tons of sugar were stated as likely to be available from Russia as the result of the opening of the Dardanelles. It is more than doubtful, however, whether Russia has, or will have for some time, that amount of sugar to ship. The 1914-15 crop yielded 1,950,000 tons, and the pre-War consumption was about 1,530,000 tons. But as recent reports show that the consumption has advanced considerably, in fact, has increased by 12 per cent., the consumption at present may be taken as being 1,736,000 tons. The exports to Finland are about 50,000 tons; to Persia, 85,000 tons; to China and Afghanistan, 5,000 tons; in all, 140,000 tons, only leaving a margin of 74,000 tons for Westward export. The next crop is likely to be less than that of 1914-15, on account of diminished sowings, by about 150,000 tons, so it looks very much as if there may be an actual shortage of sugar in that country. At any rate, it may be taken that the opening of the Dardanelles is not likely in any way to affect our sugar supplies.

Towards the end of last month, Mr. Asquith, in reply to a question in the House of Commons regarding the import prohibition of sugar, stated that he was advised that higher prices would result from its removal. It is difficult to see how this would be. Sugars from foreign sources would have to come to this country as they are now doing, the amount of British sugar being regrettably small, and the position is just as favourable for a corner in sugar outside the country as it would be for one in this country with open importation. There is no mystic element associated with Government buying which precludes prices being put up against them, and there is no record, save the present Government attitude towards sugar, of a corner in sugar having ever existed. As a matter of fact, the value of sugar in Great Britain is now higher than elsewhere, due to the importation prohibition. At the present moment American granulated—a sugar which the Government has been buying in considerable quantities—can be bought in New York at a price equivalent to £21 per ton. The duty which this sugar has to pay on entering England is £1 16s. 8d. per ton; the ordinary and War insurance would be 5/3 per ton, the freight—even with the Government doing their own shipping—not over £2 per ton. In fact, including all charges, this sugar could be landed in this country for £25 10s. per ton. The Government selling price is £29 per ton, showing a clear profit to the Government of £3 10s. per ton. No consuming tax-payer, however, can object to Government profits in this direction.

The Governor of Mauritius, acting upon the authority of the Colonial Office, has laid an embargo on the approaching Mauritius sugar crop on behalf of the British Government. The price which the Sugar Commission propose to pay for this sugar was 17s. 6d. for first grade whites, 17s. 2d. for second, and 16s. 10d. for third, Mauritius sugar is used largely by the sugar using trades,

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to June 17, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to June 27, 1915	1914
Sugar	37,243	32,022 Tons.	8,650	9,213 Tons.
Molasses	...	639 Puns.	...	...
Rum	1,984,385	1,430,850 Proof Galls.	417,666	851,287 Galls.
Molasses, &c.	979	1,022 Tons.	...	...
Cacao	31,868	33,437 lbs.	3,662,560	5,567,184 Lbs.
Coffee	75,983	180,655 "	4,799,200	5,453,392 "
Coco-nuts	998,134	1,022,211 No.	14,512,266	14,414,441 No.
Oranges	...	...	1,326,650	2,162,300 "
Bananas	...	...	4,729,321	8,655,632 Siems.
Cotton	...	...	21,927	23,304 Lbs.
Pepper	...	...	34,718	51,993 Cwts.
Ginger	...	...	6,789	15,275 "
Honey	...	...	55,204	126,645 Galls.
Dye-woods	...	...	21,499	34,171 Tons.
Gold	29,351	29,321 ozs.	...	...
Diamonds	471	5,436 Carats.	...	...
Rice	21,794,395	8,387,689 lbs.	Attrwt. 1,446,015	2,104,167 lbs
Ralata	845,982	346,521 "	Cacao	80,058 102,123 "
Rubber	7,899	593 "	Cotton	100,277 295,426 "
Timber	85,643	103,173 cubic ft.	Seed	255,275 584,412 "
Lumber	15,563	188,903 ft.	...	...
Line (citrate of)	7,938	2,026 lbs.	...	...

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to June 24, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to June 24, 1915	1914
Sugar	31,552	29,263 Tons.	20,507	25,593 Tons.
Molasses	2,069	2,707 Puns.	25,197	69,115 Puns.
Rum	2,684	668 "	...	...
Coco-nuts	4,505,795	8,009,785 No.	...	...
Asphalt	61,863	85,135 Tons.	...	...
Manjak	238	157 "	...	...
Bitars	7,400	8,957 Cases.	...	...
Coffee	10,240	12,960 lbs.	...	...
Crude Petrol	217,521	9,371,048 Galls.	...	...
Cacao	38,540,200	54,681,600 lbs.	...	...
Cotton	...	...	...	...
Seed	...	...	...	...
Copra	14,019	4,556 Bags.	...	...
Spice	...	...	...	...
Rola	...	...	...	...

	Dominica.	
	1914.	1913.
Cacao	993,888	1,070,720 lbs.
Limes	45,744	44,820 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	379,875	336,728 galls.
concentrated	148,179	158,974
Citrate of	5,191	4,753 cwt.
Lime Oil, distilled	3,984	5,270 galls.
equelled	1,619	1,505 "
Hardware	82,134	77,903 feet.
Bananas	3,780	4,266 stems
Cocanuts	554,549	448,747 No.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

to whom the Government have been allowing a rebate of £3 per ton as a *quid pro quo* for the higher price of sugar here compared with that of countries with which they come in contact in the way of competition.

A new development is on foot in connection with the Cantley Sugar Factory in Norfolk, where financial experience as regards British Beet Sugar has been so unfortunate. The Kelly Trading Company, synonymous with Kelly's Directories, Ltd., have obtained an option on the property with the view of converting it into a co-operative factory in connection with the farmers. The latter are said to be taking kindly to the idea.

The rise noticeable in recent years in the sugar consumption in the United States appears to have stopped. According to Willett & Gray, for January to June, 2,108,431 tons were consumed, as against 2,131,098 tons for the corresponding period last year, and 1,885,167 tons for the first six months of 1913.

In a recent issue of the *Produce Markets' Review*, reference was made to the interesting fact that lower grades of "Demerara" sugars were bought readily by the trade, while the higher grades were neglected. Of late years, white granulated sugars have taken the place of the West Indian yellow grocery sugars, and it is a pity that the general public do not realise that these full-bodied raw sugars are far better from a dietetic point of view than white sugars, no matter how pure and sparkling the latter may look. Grocers look upon "Demerara" sugar as a fancy article, and charge accordingly, the profit being manifestly greater on the lower grades than on the higher. This also has the effect of limiting sales.

In the London Market on the 13th, 1,200 tons of West Indian Grocery Crystallised were offered for sale, with some improvement in demand, a considerable proportion of which was disposed of at previous rates. Trinidad sold at 24s. 6d. to 26s., Jamaica at 23s. 6d. to 24s. 6d., Demerara at 24s. 6d. to 26s., St. Lucia at 24s. to 24s. 3d. On the 20th the large quantity of 1,600 tons was put up at auction, with considerable demand for the lower grades, the good and finer qualities being neglected. All the Trinidad and Demerara lots were bought in; but sales of St. Lucia and Jamaica were made at from 23s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. On the 23rd 350 tons of grocery crystallised met with fair demand. Demerara was sold at 24s. 6d. to 28s. 6d., the latter for fine quality. Demerara syrups were sold at 19s. 3d. to 20s. 6d., and 38 barrels St. Lucia Muscovado at 16s. to 18s.

Tate's cubes are quoted at 31s., American granulated at 29s., and white Javas at 27s. to 27s. 3d.

The West India Sugar statistics up to January 1st were:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	30,570	23,985	29,921	29,285	25,201
Deliveries	21,292	16,268	16,145	20,459	19,184
Stock	15,287	20,321	15,615	6,727	13,186

In New York the market duty paid for 960 sugar declined to \$4.83 to \$4.86 per 100 lbs. on the 13th, and now stands at \$4.77. Granulated is quoted at \$6.00. Sales for Europe are still being reported.

**RUM**—Market for Demerara steady, with sales at full previous rates. Quotations are 1s. 4d. for ordinary and 1s. 5d. for special marks per proof gallon. Jamaicas are very firm with values for ordinary 3s. 6d. to 4s. per gallon.

The Rum stocks in London on July 17th were:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	4,378	8,581	6,365	7,942	10,681
Demerara	5,576	10,594	7,429	6,651	5,506
Total, all kinds	18,295	26,665	21,392	21,775	28,935

**CACAO**—The market has been firm, with a steady demand. At auction sales held on the 13th, when 5,684 bags were offered, Trinidad was up 1s., fetching 59s. to 84s. Grenada sold well at full prices. Jamaica and St. Lucia were slightly dearer at 70s. 6d. to 80s. the former and 70s. to 80s. for the latter. At auction sales to-day the demand was steady; 2,368 bags of Trinidad were put up, and 1,250 sold at 83s. to 84s. 6d. One thousand bags of this consisted of a portion of the Trinidad gift to the Army and Navy, of which up to the present 3,500 bags have been sold by the Government. 235 bags of Grenada

fetched from 76s to 80s. Some Dominica, St. Lucia, and Jamaica were also disposed of at steady rates.

The stocks in London on July 17th were:

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	10,374	10,810	11,366	7,063	8,248
Grenada	3,507	11,039	6,590	4,931	16,056
Total, all kinds	77,517	99,224	82,146	110,317	123,431

**COTTON**—There has been no demand for Sea Island cotton since our last report, and no improvement may be expected until Belgium and Northern France are free from German occupation. The receipts of West India have been 2,389 bags up to 22nd July.

**COFFEE**—The market has been quiet, with moderate demand. At auction, on the 20th, eleven bags of Jamaica were put up for sale, but bought in.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil.—The market for Distilled is bare, and supplies are much wanted. Hand-pressed is slow of sale. Small transactions have taken place at 7s. Lime Juice.—Raw is quiet. The stocks are small, and demand seems to have subsided. Nominal values are for Dominica 3s. to 3s. 6d., and for Jamaica 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. There is no change to report in Concentrated. Citrate of Lime is valued at £25 per pipe (10.6 New York).

**SPICES**—Nutmegs and Mace.—In the absence of fresh arrivals there is nothing fresh to report, and prices stand, Nutmegs 100's/80's, 4½d. to 5½d.; 120's/100's, 4½d. to 4½d.; 140's/120's, 4½d. to 4½d. Mace.—Good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 11d.; red to good, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11; broken, 9d. to 1s. 4d. Ginger.—R hatoon is quoted at 55s.; small to middling, 62s. 6d. to 68s.; good clean bold, 70s. to 75s.

**COPRA**—There are no sales of West Indian to report. The selling price is £23 10s. to £23.

**RUBBER**—The market for Plantation is lower. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 2s. 6d., with smoked sheet at 2s. 5½d. Para is lower at 2s. 6d.; soft at 2s. 2½d. The value of Castilloa sheet is 2s. 1d., and of Castilloa scrap 1s. 8d.

**BALATA**—The markets for both block and sheet have been very dull, and little business is reported. Block fails to find buyers above 1s. 10½d c.i.f. Business has been done in sheet at 2s. 4½d. landed terms London.

**ARROWROOT**—Sales of 400 barrels St. Vincent have been made at 2½d. to 2½d. Quotations are nominal at 2½d. to 4½d.

**HONEY**—The market is quiet. Dark common is valued at 26s. to 27s.; medium, 28s. to 31s.; good 33s. to 36s.; and fine to finest, 37s. to 40s.

**MANURES**—The markets are firm. Sulphate of ammonia may be quoted at £15 per ton; Nitrate of soda at £13; ordinary Superphosphate at £3 10s. per ton. Concentrated Superphosphate, £14 to £15. Basic Slag is in good demand, very little being obtainable, price £3 10s. to £3 10s.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—American, 8½d.; water white 9½d.  
July 27th, 1915. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

### BIRTHS.

EWEN.—At Delville, Reigate, on the 8th inst., the wife of Stephen Ewen, of a son.

WEEKS.—On July 8th, at Port Hall, British East Africa, the wife of Reginald Weeks, nee Elsie Alleyon, of a daughter.

### Want.

EXPERIENCED Sugar Planter and Manufacturer (over military age) open for an engagement. Thorough knowledge of Spanish.—Apply "Z," West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

# West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXX.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10th, 1915.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.  
15, SEething LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.1.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

August 9th, 1915

### WEST INDIAN INDUSTRIES AND THE WAR.

Now that we have come to the end of the first year of the War, it is possible to gauge the effect which the gigantic upheaval of the civilised world has had upon the West Indian industries. As regards sugar, still the principal industry, the sudden withdrawal from the world's supplies of the exports of this commodity from enemy countries, amounting to at least 2,000,000 tons, coupled with the entire loss of the Belgian and a considerable portion of the French production, together say 600,000 tons, has naturally had a very stimulating effect upon the West Indian sugar industry. Immediately before the War broke out, the prospects of sugar were far from bright. The greatly increased output throughout the world had brought the prices down to the cost of production. Full crops were in view everywhere, and a period of intense depression appeared imminent. The War changed all this, and the rise in prices which immediately occurred, and the higher level of values which have since obtained, have meant profits to the West Indian proprietors. The "Demerara sugar" industry has been especially well situated, inasmuch as yellow grocery crystallised sugar is being allowed to be imported into this country by private individuals under license, and has thus received the benefit of the somewhat higher prices prevailing in this country as the result of the operations of the Sugar Commission. Whether the present prosperity of the West Indian sugar industry will be of a permanent nature depends entirely upon the attitude of the British Government to

Colonial sugar after the War. Rum has also been in great demand, and prices unknown for many years have been experienced. It must be said in this connection, however, that before the War there was evidence of increasing popularity of this spirit in this country, so that the high price now being obtained is not altogether due to the War. In the other large West Indian industry—cacao—there has been a corresponding degree of prosperity as the result of the War. In July, 1914, cacao prices were at a low ebb; but the War had the effect of causing an immediate rise, which is well maintained. The low prices before the War were due mainly to the enormously increasing African production, notably on the Gold Coast, and as the German colonies only produced 13,440,000 lbs. per annum out of the world's production of 550,000,000 lbs., and as the German and Austrian consumption prior to the War amounted to no less than 140,000,000 lbs., it might be difficult at first sight to see how the enhanced price could be due to the War. It is true that the exports of cacao and cacao products to neutral European countries from the United Kingdom increased in the case of cacao by 200 per cent., and of cacao products by 700 per cent.; but this does not necessarily mean extra consumption in those countries, or transmission of cacao through them to the enemy countries, as the closing of Hamburg has had the effect of transferring some of the operations of this important distributing centre to London, as we foreshadowed; and the increasing exports may have been due to the neutral countries being supplied through the latter port instead of Hamburg. But apart from this there is little doubt that Germany has probably had more than its usual quantity from some source or the other. Further, the home consumption has enormously increased as the result of the War in the direction of supplies, both official and as the result of private generosity, of cocoa and chocolate for the Army and the Navy. Then, again, it is extremely probable that there is an increased demand in Russia as a result of the Vodka prohibition. The greater circulation of money here among the poorer classes, whose purchasing power has been greatly increased, has also probably not been without effect. The result of these causes has been that the price of cacao has gone up quite 40 per cent. What the effect will be of the prohibition of July 30th of the exports of cacao and cacao products from this country to European countries other than those of the Allies and Spain and Portugal, it is difficult to prophesy. Probably it will only mean a further transference of the distributing centre to New York.

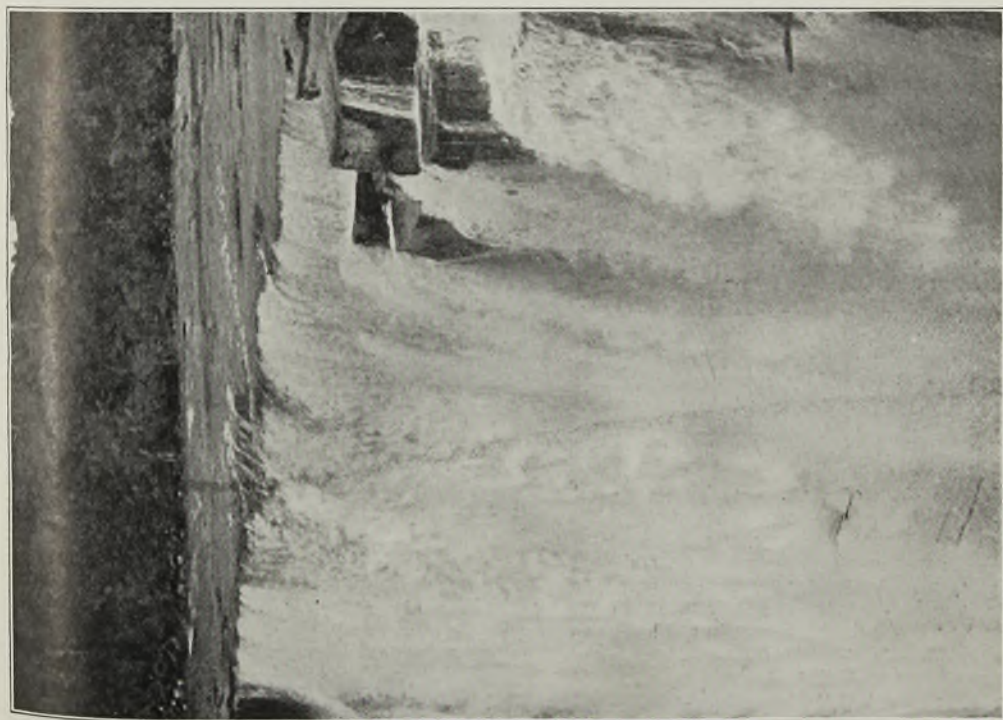
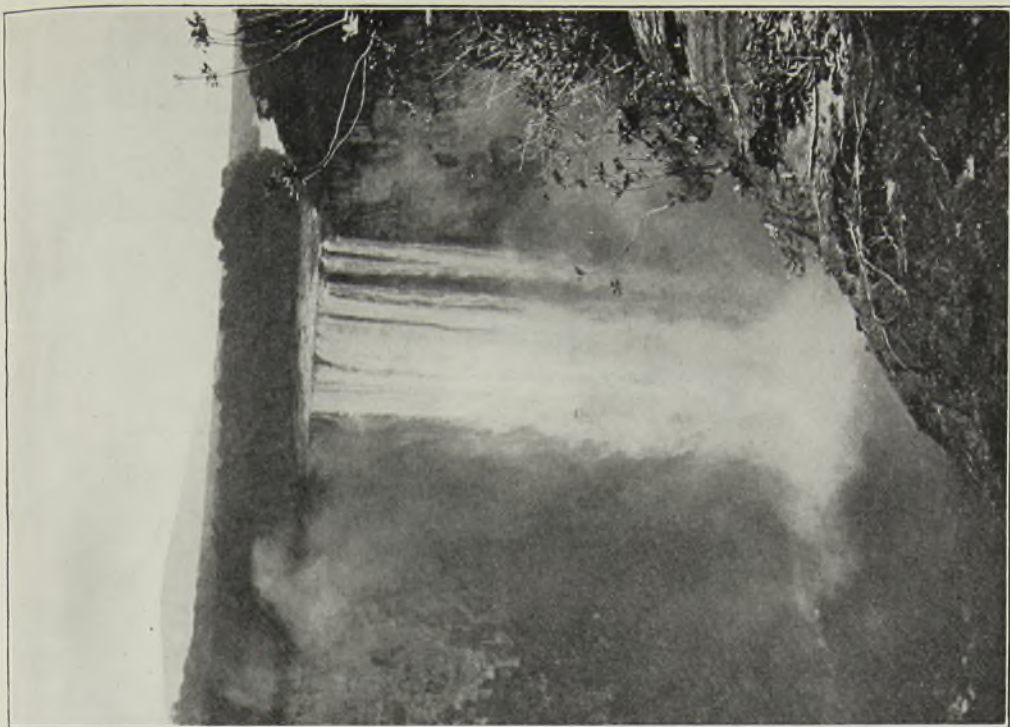


Sea Island cotton—the only variety grown in the West Indies, except a comparatively small quantity of Marie Galante produced in Carriacou—has suffered very much, the demand being practically dead. The action of the Fine Cotton Spinners in guaranteeing a minimum price has, however, kept the West Indian industry going. The high price of imported foodstuffs has naturally had a stimulating effect on the production of rice, and as the result the British Guiana export of this commodity has increased by 40 per cent. The War has not directly affected the West Indian fruit industry, as the exports to the enemy countries have never been large. Indirectly, however, on account of the stream of Canary bananas having been deflected to this country from the Continent, the War has had a somewhat prejudicial influence upon this particular branch of it. The value of lime products has very naturally increased since the outbreak of hostilities, with benefit to the producers. The War has also been the cause of a somewhat greater demand for rubber, which has caused somewhat higher prices, in which the small West Indian industry has participated. Balata has remained outside the sphere of War influences, and the other minor industries have also been unaffected by the War. So much for the individual industries; but no review on the effect of the War on the West Indian industries would be complete without reference to the part the Navy has played in protecting the interests of these Colonies. At the outset it was feared that trouble would arise from the presence of the *Karlsruhe*, *Dresden*, and the armed auxiliary cruisers of the enemy in the Western Atlantic, but it is a cause for the utmost congratulation that no loss either on land or sea has taken place, with the exception of a few bales of cotton in a vessel torpedoed in the Channel. There has been some trouble from the want of freight facilities, but these might be expected, and have not been sufficient to seriously affect any of the industries. Freights as well as War insurances have been necessarily high, but the fact remains that the West Indian industries have been able to "carry on" successfully and without serious inconvenience at a time when the principal countries of Europe are involved in a War unparalleled in the history of nations.

#### THE BREEZY BAHAMAS.

**A**LTHOUGH, as far as the West Indies generally are concerned, last Tourist Season was practically a failure, owing to a great extent to the dislocation of the ocean steamer service, the Bahamas attracted quite a large number of visitors to their shores from the United States. For this satisfactory state of affairs the operations of the local Development Board were, without a doubt, mainly responsible. This organisation was constituted under an Act of the Legislature of the Bahamas, assented to on June 22nd, 1914, which was the outcome of the recommendations of a Commission appointed to enquire into the passenger steamer service between New York and Nassau, New Providence. The objects of the Board, of

which the HON. F. C. WELLS-DURRANT, K.C., is Chairman, and HON. G. H. GAMBLIN, HON. J. H. BROWN, MR. W. C. B. JOHNSON, MR. H. W. LIGHTBOURN, MR. W. P. ADDERLEY, and MR. L. G. BRICE are members, is to improve the passenger service between the United States and the Colony and to provide facilities generally for tourists. From its report, which now lies before us, it would appear that these objects are being duly carried out with an energy and enthusiasm which is most refreshing, and it cannot be doubted that it was largely owing to the efforts of MR. WELLS-DURRANT and his colleagues that the Tourist Season of 1914-1915 was a success in spite of the War. With regard to the question of steamer services, the Board has been endeavouring to secure the establishment of direct communication with Jacksonville in Florida, which it considers would confer a considerable benefit on the Island, affording, as it would, opportunities for the successful development of the trade in tomatoes and similar garden products. In March, 1913, SIR GEORGE HADDON-SMITH almost succeeded in bringing about such a service; but, unfortunately, his efforts were hampered by vested interests which have so often led to the wrecking of improvement schemes in the West Indies. The Board is, however, not without hope that the proposed service may ultimately be established. With a view of attracting tourists, a descriptive pamphlet compiled by MR. H. MCHARG DAVENPORT was widely circulated, the Board believing that this would make a stronger personal appeal than indiscriminate advertisements in newspapers and magazines. They then got into touch with various tourist agencies, including those of THOMAS COOK & SON, the RAYBURN & WHITCOMB Co., the TUCKER AGENCY, and the Bureau, well known to all visitors to Havana, which rejoices in the attention-arresting name of "ASK MR. FOSTER," whose assistance was invoked with considerable success. With the help of the Secretary of the Canadian West Indian League they also displayed in some of the principal shops of Montreal and Toronto attractive pictures of the Bahamas from the camera of MR. F. S. ARMBRISTER. They were also successful in inducing MR. RICHARD LE GALLIENNE, the well-known author, to spend the season in the Colony, and it is probable that the appearance of articles and stories from his pen, with the Bahamas as a setting, will be making their appearance before very long. MR. BURTON HOLMES, too, a lecturer of note, also visited the Colony, and has promised to include New Providence in his series of lectures. But perhaps the most enterprising move on the part of the Board was their making arrangements with the SUBMARINE CORPORATION Co. for taking and exhibiting throughout the United States and Canada photographs of the wonderful "Sea Gardens," decked with the graceful work of the coral animals, for which the Bahamas are famous. An endeavour was made to secure the services of an aviator and a hydroplane capable of carrying passengers for the season, and though nothing came of it owing to the absence of suitable accommodation for the



THE GREAT KAIETEUR FALL, BRITISH GUIANA.

From Photographs taken by Lieutenant Guy M. Oliver on April 14th, 1914.

machine, next winter will no doubt see the advent of the aeroplane to the Bahamas. The activities of the Board further resulted in a Race Track being added to the attractions of Nassau, while next year it is hoped that a Polo Ground, which has been provided on the Race Course, will be ready for play. Additional attractions are also to be provided at Hog Island, Nassau's superb bathing beach, and at the Eastern Fort. To quote the report, "It is not enough to bring tourists to Nassau. It is fully recognised that local enterprise must endeavour to provide amusement and entertainment for visitors, so that their visit may be made agreeable in every respect, and that they may be induced to prolong it and eventually revisit the Island." This applies equally to the West Indian Islands, where, generally speaking, amusements for visitors are sadly lacking. So far the attentions of the Board have been mainly attracted to the development of Nassau, but the Out Islands, as the rest of the Bahamas are called, have not been forgotten, and it is hoped, with the assistance of the RAYMOND & WILCOX COMPANY, to arrange for tourists to visit Watling's Island—the landfall of Columbus—and Harbour Island next season. The Board prepared a Hotel and Boarding House Register and list of furnished houses, which no doubt proved extremely helpful to intending visitors, and when War broke out negotiations were proceeding with several steamship companies for special touring steamers from the United Kingdom to include the Bahamas in their itinerary. We notice, however, that the Board of Development does not attach too much importance to the visit of these travelling hotels with their hundreds of passengers who only go ashore for a few hours, but prefer visitors who come to make an extended stay. These latter were so numerous last winter that for the first time for many years the Hotel Colonial was compelled to open a certain number of rooms in the Victoria Hotel for their accommodation; while the number of visitors at the Hotel Nassau was nearly fifty per cent. more than in the preceding season. Some have had an especially prosperous season, and the visitors not only increased in numbers, but in many cases made a longer stay than usual in the Island. The expenditure of the Board of Development amounted only to £2,488 14s. 9d. out of the £3,000 appropriated to it, and they are to be cordially congratulated upon the extremely satisfactory results which have been brought about by this very modest outlay.

Particulars regarding the conditions of enlistment in the proposed West Indian Contingent were despatched by the Colonial Office to the various Colonies concerned on July 28th.

Several matters of more than passing interest are dealt with in "The Produce Markets Summary" in the present issue, notably the causes of the recent fall in the price of sugar, the new prohibition of the export of cacao and cacao products, and the mistaken definition of rum which has been adopted by the Government of Western Australia.

## THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

### The Contract to be determined.

On July 29th the West India Committee cabled to the Chambers of Commerce of Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad (the three Colonies contributing the largest subsidies under the mail contracts), inviting their views regarding the very regrettable action of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with respect to the West Indian mail service, to which attention was called in a leading article in last issue. The Company have given notice of their intention to discontinue the Transatlantic mail service after the steamer leaving England on August 25th in consequence of the heavy loss which, they state, has been involved. They point out that the closing of the port of Southampton has made compliance with the contract impossible, and they suggest the substitution of a monthly service by eleven-knot steamers for one-half of the present subsidy. In reply to the Committee's message the Georgetown (British Guiana) Chamber of Commerce cabled:—

"Chamber protests proposed substituted service. Not equitable. Agrees, however, new arrangement war duration, provided intercolonial subsidy also reduced half and freight facilities homeward not curtailed. Approves Government suggestion forwarding mails alternate fortnight French mail."—Paimon.

The Trinidad Chamber referred the Committee to the following resolution, cabled home by the Governor on their behalf:—

This Chamber learns with regret decision arrived at by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to discontinue Transatlantic mail service after steamer leaving August 25th, and that their suggestion of eleven knot service every four weeks for half present subsidy unacceptable and would not meet requirements of commercial community. Chamber would respectfully urge that Royal Mail Steam Packet Company be requested to reconsider decision and to continue to give colony fortnightly service as provided for in present contract, failing which that the contract be cancelled entirely.

After the above resolution had been passed, a Conference was held in Port-of-Spain between the Finance Committee of the Legislature and a delegation of the Chamber of Commerce. As the outcome the former decided to recommend the acceptance of the proposal of the Company for one year, on the condition that Trinidad should continue the headquarters and transshipping centre, but it was felt that a payment of three-eighths of the present subsidy would be a fair one. This decision, as also the resolution of the Chamber of Commerce, was immediately telegraphed to the Secretary of State. It is understood that the Finance Committee was largely influenced by the production of figures by the Collector of Customs and the Director of Public Works showing the large amount actually disbursed yearly by the Company in addition to the substantial indirect advantages accruing from Port-of-Spain being the centre station.

No reply has been received from the Barbados Chamber of Commerce.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

[Passed by the Censor for Publication.]

### The Failure of Germany's Plans.

After twelve months of War, Germany has failed to carry out her plan of campaign. But the Allies must do more than achieve a negative result. They must carry through to victory a plan of their own, leading to the recovery of Northern France, Belgium, and Poland from the enemy's iron grip. Of that there is no sign yet, nor will there be till England is organised as a nation for war. Her Navy has done all, and more, than was expected of it. British sea power is indeed the enabling condition of the Allies' resistance. But it cannot strike on land. It is the spear, but the Army is its point, and every week and month of the War has strengthened the view that it would best be sharpened by universal service. In a year Lord Kitchener has raised the most wonderful Army ever raised under the voluntary system. In these days, however, whole nations, and not a fraction of them, are fighting units. The adoption of universal service would certainly have enormous psychological importance. It would hearten our Allies, convince the enemy that we are in earnest, and lead our people to understand that this is a War to the death. It would, in fact, have the same effect on us as invasion on our Allies. With the supply of men settled, the supply of munitions would follow as a natural consequence. . . . France, with unflinching spirit, is already preparing for a winter campaign.

### The Russian Retreat from Warsaw.

Warsaw has fallen. Against the tremendous masses of men and material concentrated by the Germans, our Ally has made a superb resistance since the middle of July last. The masterly retreat of her armies, steady and orderly, will be historic. They have fought every yard of the way, suffering cruel losses, but inflicting greater. Except on the Narew, between Poltusk and Rozan, at a point where, owing to a bend in the river the enemy could command both banks, and on the Wieprz at Krasnostav, the checks to the Russians have not been considerable. Everywhere else our Allies have retreated, so as to allow the enemy to occupy territory, while denying him victories—a process which is costly in the present and likely to be barren in the long run. As in Galicia, so in Poland and Courland the Grand Duke declines to play the German game by making a stand at a fortress so as to risk the defeat of his armies. Preparation for the evacuation of Warsaw was as systematic as it was in Lemberg. Ammunition, stores, and everything likely to be useful to the enemy, including even the bells of the churches, were removed; machinery was dismantled, and the bridges across the Vistula which connected Warsaw with Praga were blown up.

If before the slow advance of Mackensen on the

South the Russians withdraw their front to the Polish triangle formed by the Vistula, Bug, and Wieprz, with the fortresses of Novo Georgievsk, Ivangorod, and Brest Litowsk at each corner, they will be obliged to shorten their line before Hindenburg's more rapid advance on the North. Originally the German offensive in Courland began with cavalry patrols, gradually developing into a vast sweeping movement, such as the enemy has so often tried before East and West, but hitherto without success. It extends from Rozan, on the Narew, to Mitau, on the Gulf of Riga, with Bulow threatening Kovno, and therefore the Warsaw-Petrograd Railway. To save their right flank, the Russians had to give up trying to deliver a violent attack on Mackensen's flank on the Bug in an effort to save the Polish capital by threatening his communications. One thing is certain—Warsaw was not held a day longer than was necessary to secure the safe retirement of the Russian armies. Apparently the enemy is endeavouring to force them back to the Dwina-Niemen front, with the Pripet, which flows through a swampy area, connecting it with the Bug and Dniester.

Even should the worst come to pass, the enemy will be as far off as ever from his real objective—the destruction of our Ally's military power. In a few months her armies, refreshed, reorganised, and reinforced, will be able to resume the offensive.

### In the Western Theatre.

In spite of the aid of large quantities of asphyxiating gas and burning liquid, in Flanders and the Argonne, the enemy has made no real progress in the West. His object of late has been to attempt several offensives at many points in order to keep the Allies occupied and prevent them from concentrating in strength anywhere while he is so deeply engaged against the Russians. By closing the Dutch and Swiss frontiers and other means, he has succeeded in giving the impression that reinforcements have been sent from the West to the East. But it is very unlikely that this has been done to any extent, which, perhaps, accounts for the inactivity of the Allies, who are carrying on an offensive at only one point—in the Vosges and Alsace, where they have made considerable progress. Fierce German counter-attacks are beaten off, and by thus holding the positions they have gained, the French are able to command the plain which stretches from them to the Rhine. The only height which remains in the hands of the Germans commanding the approach to Colmar is near Zimmernbach, half-way between Colmar and Münster.

### In the Dardanelles.

The fighting for Achi Baba, one of the strongest positions in any of the War theatres—with this difference, that it cannot be outflanked, because the front is only fifteen miles of gullies and rivulets, with the sea at either end—maintains its character unaltered. Sir Ian Hamilton reports a material improvement of one section of the line through a dash-attack on a network of Turkish trenches, which

were beginning to threaten the safety of "Tasmania Post." As the name implies, this part of the front is held by Australians and New Zealanders, who captured one section by means of mines, the other by means of a bayonet charge. The result is that the Allies are now in possession of the crest of the ridge. In letters from the Gallipoli Peninsula the Australians suggest that the Turks are getting short of ammunition, for lately they have been firing old and obsolete shell.

### On the Italian Front.

Thanks to the strategy and stubborn fighting of the Allies, there are no enemies in Italian territory, which makes the operations in this area unique. Both sides have large numbers of trained mountain troops, but the contour of the country is somewhat to the advantage of the Austrians. The battle on the Carso plateau is still raging, with Gorizia as the objective. The position is a natural crescent-shaped bastion, with the river Isonzo flowing at the foot of it in the West like a moat. The Italians have nearly surrounded it, starting from a point near Monfalcone and proceeding by way of Gradisca and Sagrado. They are investing the two forts, which crown the two eminences of the plateau, Monte di Busi and Monte San Michele. Having got a footing on the slopes of the latter, the Italians are able to command Gorizia with their artillery. The fall of the place is only a question of time.

### The Fortnight at Sea.

British submarines are continuing their activity. One, a week ago, sunk an enemy destroyer off his own coast. It is believed to have been of the G 196 class, and therefore a new ship. In the Baltic another of our submarines has sunk a German transport, while in the Sea of Marmora this type of vessel is working great havoc, not only sinking ships, but attacking arsenals and ammunition trains so as to cause damage. The Russian Fleet is equally active in the Black Sea, up to date having destroyed over 900 vessels, small and large, proceeding to Constantinople with coal and military stores.

The French destroyer *Bisson* made a successful attack upon the Austrian submarine and aeroplane station at Lagosta Island, of the Dalmatian coast, cutting the cable at the same time. As Italy has seized the island of Pelagosa—in this part of the Adriatic of strategic value—it is evident that the balance of sea-power in the Adriatic is with the Allies.

The German advance on Riga is being hampered by the Russian Baltic Fleet, the methods employed being similar to those with which the British defeated the German dream of a naval base in the Channel. As the enemy's fleet makes no reply, Von Tirpitz is evidently saving it for some other naval purpose, or as a basis of negotiation on the conclusion of peace.

### In Mesopotamia.

On the ancient rivers Tigris and Euphrates we are reviving the old river strategy, when they,

with canals to link them together to the adjoining seas, were to war what Roman roads and British railways ultimately became. The British Expeditionary Force worked its way up to Basra, which stands on the rivers where they are united. Having occupied that, our men advanced on Kurnah, which stands at the point of their junction, and is supposed to be the site of the Garden of Eden. That was in December, and the Turks, unprepared for the readiness and activity of the Indian Government, tried to recover Basra, but without success. Until May, floods and other natural difficulties prevented progress on either side, our men in the meantime becoming adepts in handling the native boats, each holding ten men, and two, when linked together, a machine gun. By June, Amarah, on the Tigris, was reached and occupied. The latest news is that the enemy has been defeated with heavy losses near Nasiriyeh. His casualties were 2,500, and his losses in material were considerable. So complete was his discomfiture that he retreated northward more than twenty-five miles. . . . Not since Cyrus, the Mede, captured Babylon, has a military enterprise on these historic rivers been carried out with such marvellous effectiveness. Unfortunately, our people are too pre-occupied elsewhere to do it full justice.

(To be continued.)

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

### The Great Kaieteur Fall.

The CIRCULAR is indebted to Lieut. Guy M. Oliver for the photographs of the Kaieteur Fall which are reproduced on another page of the present issue. They were taken on April 14th last year, and Mr. Oliver was particularly fortunate, as the moment after they were taken there was a down-pour of rain, and his companion had to wait for two hours before he could photograph the Fall.

The Kaieteur or "Old Man's" Fall has so often been the subject of articles in these columns that no detailed description of it need be given. It will suffice here to say that it was discovered by Mr. Barrington Brown, of the Geological Survey, on April 24th, 1870. This magnificent Fall, which is fully five times as high as Niagara, is formed by the Potaro River—a branch of the Essequibo—plunging over a sandstone and conglomerate tableland into a deep valley below. The total height of the fall is 822 feet. For the first 741 feet the water falls as a perpendicular column into a basin below, from which it continues its downward course over a sloping cataract 81 feet in height, and through the interstices of great blocks of rock to the river below. The width varies from 350 feet in the dry season to 400 feet in the rainy season, and the depth similarly varies from a very few feet to 20 feet.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### VIII.—JAMAICA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

In continuation of the official reports as to the possibilities of the expansion of the British Sugar industry which have been appearing under the above heading, a despatch from the Governor of Jamaica is now published. Reports in earlier CIRCULARS have shown that British Guiana, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, and British East Africa could, under favourable conditions, supply 3,750,000 tons of cane sugar per annum, while Nigeria has many thousands of acres suitable for cane cultivation.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Jamaica.  
26th November, 1914.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 393, dated the 6th ultimo, on the subject of extending Great Britain's sources of sugar supply within the Empire, in which you ask for certain information as to the room there is for the expansion of the sugar industry in Jamaica.

2.—I am in reply to transmit to you copies of minutes by the Director of Agriculture and the Collector General, to whom His Excellency caused your letter to be referred, and to express the hope that the information afforded will be helpful.

3.—I am to add that if any further particulars are desired, His Excellency will be glad to be informed.

I have, etc.,

H. BRYAN,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

[Enclosures.]

Minute by Director of Agriculture.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.—

The position and prospects of the Sugar Industry in Jamaica to-day are those of a minor constituent in the Exports of the Colony. By nature the island is not generally adapted for the cultivation of sugar-cane on large areas as necessitated under modern conditions. The areas of level alluvium are either small patches along the coastal region or, on the south side of the island, are subject to arid or semi-arid conditions with limitations for irrigation.

The possibilities of new developments were put to a searching test three years ago by a capitalist planter from Java, who, with plenty of capital, sought to establish a large sugar factory in Jamaica, but failed to find a suitable area for the support of the enterprise.

Even under the new conditions that have arisen it would be very rash for planters at present engaged in the cultivation of bananas, coconuts and cocoa to sink a large capital in sugar machinery. Such an enterprise must look ahead for 20 years, and on a careful review of the position it does not appear likely that the price of sugar during that period will remain at any extravagant margin over the cost of production in the average of sugar-producing countries,

while the prospects of bananas, coconuts and cocoa are decidedly attractive for the planter suitably equipped for the cultivation of these staples in Jamaica.

The most important efforts to develop the Sugar Industry during the past seven years have been made in Vere, where about a quarter million sterling has been invested. Unless the new irrigation works are successfully established, there is reason to fear that the bulk of this investment in sugar in Vere will be lost, owing to the arid conditions of that region and the failure of all the irrigation works that have so far been established there.

The most obvious means of increasing the sugar output of Jamaica at the present moment is that of pushing the Cock-pit irrigation works to a successful issue in Vere. This done, an output of 10,000 tons of sugar per annum could be relied on from the magnificent lands of the Vere plains.

In Westmoreland I estimate that an increase of 25 per cent. could be easily obtained by an extension of the area under cane-farmers. The rainfall is good and regular, and this is one of the most reliable sugar areas in the island.

Some development is possible at Holland in St. Elizabeth. Montpelier Estate is now available for development, and this magnificent property could easily support a factory with an out-turn of 2,000 tons of sugar per annum. Capital alone is required. The canes grown at the new nursery at Montpelier this year are considered to be the finest in the island and have greatly impressed the planters.

The old estates in St. James and Trelawny can not be expected to do much under modern conditions. Most of these little estates have survived through finding a good market for special blending rums in Germany.

Even sugar at £20 per ton on these small areas cannot adequately replace a high-ether rum at £40 per puncheon.

Looking at the position all round I would hazard the opinion, based on a study of the Sugar Industry of Jamaica during the past fourteen years, that after supplying the local requirements of sugar an average export of 20,000 tons of sugar per annum is the maximum that can be regarded as possible of attainment by the Colony, under the most favourable conditions for development that can at present be accepted as within reasonable range of realisation.

(Signed) H. H. COUSINS,  
Director of Agriculture.

AT/10/14.

Minute by Collector-General.

Hon. Colonial Secretary,—

Questions such as those propounded are susceptible of almost any reply, and any reply given can be supported by the most convincing argument.

Assume that the areas once dedicated to canes were again available, with modern machinery, mechanical traction, etc., and you would obtain some estimates of potential crops that might astonish you.

Assume again that existing Estates generally adopted oil for fuel and mechanical traction, and that there was no longer any need of reservations for fuel and cattle, and you would again get a set of figures that would be most encouraging and that could be logically defended.

The probability is, however, that existing factories would, under a continuance of favourable prices, develop their domestic cultivation and that the system of cane farming by the small property-holders would be considerably developed in the neighbourhood of those factories which had machinery of sufficient capacity to cope with a largely extended cultivation.

Extensions on these lines should, I think, give better results than an average output of 20,000 tons, and I should be inclined to increase this estimate to 30,000 or even 35,000 tons and still consider myself conservative. In this connection I quote the figures of the past so far as they are available. In the decade embraced by the years 1865/1874 the highest output was 37,000 tons, the lowest 24,184 tons, and the average 29,660 tons. In 1875 to 1884 the highest was 34,553 tons, lowest 21,056 and average 29,064 tons. It

1885 to 1894 the highest was 26,460 tons, the lowest 16,161 tons and average 19,447 tons. In 1895 to 1904 the highest was 20,322 tons, lowest 13,524 tons and average 17,199 tons. In the present decade, with its aftermath of one hurricane, the full influence of a second, its earthquake and unprecedented spells of drought, the highest was 20,060 tons, lowest 4,891 tons and average 11,726 tons.

In considering the figures of the far-away past it must be remembered that in former days large areas now devoted to bananas, cacao and coco-nuts were under cultivation of cane and that there were numerous small factories. The banana area is never likely to be restored to the cane and the day of the small factory is forever past. On the other hand the modern day has seen great improvement in machinery, whereby not only is a better quality of sugar produced, but a much larger percentage of juice is obtained, and attention has also been given to the selection of the plant itself with very beneficial results in yield.

Figures in regard to acreage must necessarily be more or less illusive, but the following taken from pages 422/426 of this year's Handbook will have a bearing on the subject under discussion. The factories in operation returned an acreage in canes of 22,205 acres in 1913, and an acreage in grass, woodland and ruinage of 155,118 acres. It would seem that if but ten per cent. of this last more or less unproductive land were brought under cultivation of cane without resort to independent cane farmers, the larger estimate of 33,000 tons should be easily capable of realization.

The following figures respecting cane cultivation taken from paragraph 44 of my last annual report may be interposed here. These figures, of course, include the small cultivations of peasant proprietors as well as those of the sugar factories :—

Acres in Cultivation.	
In 1873/4	47,785 acres.
.. 1883/4	42,518 "
.. 1893/4	31,284 "
.. 1903/4	24,423 "
.. 1913/14	31,160 "
(Signed)	A. H. MILES, Collector-General.

16/11/14.

In reply to a further letter from the West India Committee the following despatch was received :—

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Jamaica.  
19th February, 1915.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 368, dated the 6th ultimo, asking for an expression of opinion by Mr. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture, and Mr. A. H. Miles, Collector General, as to whether the expansion of the sugar industry in Jamaica would be greater, and to what extent it would be greater, if a preference of say Two Pounds Ten Shillings per ton were granted to British Colonial Cane Sugar for a period of say fifteen years, and in reply to transmit herewith copies of minutes by Messrs. Cousins and Miles.

I have, etc.,  
R. W. JOHNSTONE,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

From the Acting Director of Agriculture.

The Hon. Agricultural Colonial Secretary,—

I should hesitate to estimate for more than 20,000 tons per annum as the average export of sugar to be expected

under the favourable conditions suggested by Mr. Algernon Aspinall. If British capital came into the field and bought out the smaller estates at present doing very well in other staples, the output of sugar would, of course, greatly increase.

For a private owner on an average estate, I believe our present major industries to offer a greater inducement than sugar with a home preference of £2 10s. per ton. As a means of securing greater stability in our exports, an increase of sugar is highly desirable, and it would be of benefit to the Island if we could get British capital interested in the development of sugar in Jamaica. From the point of view of returns on capital, even with the preference indicated, a million sterling invested in sugar development in Cuba, would, I believe, yield a better return than for extensions in Jamaica. In the former, the conditions are favourable for sugar cane on the large scale while here, as I have already stated, the conditions are not so favourable and we already possess other industries that are successful and remunerative.

(Signed) H. H. COUSINS,  
Director of Agriculture.

3/2/15.

From the Collector-General.

Hon. Colonial Secretary,—

My conclusion was that better prices and more stable conditions would lead to greater output. The proposed preference would certainly make for more stable conditions, but I do not think that it would be of sufficient attraction to induce landowners with suitable banana soil to substitute canes for bananas. So long as our bananas find a market I do not think there is any chance of sugar exceeding the limit I have estimated. Another factor is that sugar requires a very much larger capital outlay.

(Signed) A. H. MILES.

9.2.15.

## BANANAS IN QUEENSLAND.

### What White Labourers and Chinese are doing.

Banana cultivation is making headway in Queensland, and it will no doubt be of interest to producers of that fruit in Jamaica and Trinidad to have some particulars of the conditions under which it is grown in Australia.

These are afforded by the Department of Agriculture in a booklet entitled the "Fruits of Queensland," which has been issued by the Queensland Government Intelligence Bureau.

The rank luxuriance of the growth of bananas and plantains, says the Department, their handsome foliage, their productiveness, their high economic value as food, and their universal distribution throughout the tropics, all combine to place them in a premier position. As a food the banana is unequalled amongst fruits, as, whether it is used green as a vegetable, ripe as a fruit, dried and ground into flour, or preserved in any other way, it is one of the most wholesome and nutritious of foods for human consumption. It is a staple article of diet in all tropical countries, and the stems of several varieties make an excellent food for all kinds of stock.

In Queensland, the culture of bananas is confined to the frostless belts of the eastern seaboard, as it is a plant that is extremely susceptible to cold, and is injured by the lightest frosts. It is grown in

favourable locations in the South, where it produces excellent fruit, but its cultivation is much greater in the North, where the rainfall is heavier, and the average annual temperature greater. In the Southern part of the State, its cultivation is entirely in the hands of white growers, who have been growing it on suitable soil in suitable localities for the past fifty years or even more. An old plantation was recently seen that was set out over twenty years ago, and the present plants are still strong and healthy, and bearing good bunches of well-filled fruit, so that there is no question as to the suitability of the soil or climate. Bananas do best on rich scrub land, and it is no detriment to their growth if it is more or less covered with stones, as long as there is sufficient soil to set the young plants. Shelter from heavy or cold winds is an advantage, and the plants thrive better under these conditions than when planted in more exposed positions. Bananas are frequently the first crop planted in newly burnt off scrub land, as they do not require any special preparation of such land, and the large amount of ash and partially burnt and decomposed vegetable mould provide an ample supply of food for the plants' use. Bananas are rank feeders, so that this abundance of available plant food causes a rapid growth, fine plants, and correspondingly large bunches of fruit. Though newly burnt off scrub land is the best for this fruit, it can be grown successfully in land that has been under cultivation for many years, provided that the land is rich enough naturally, or its fertility is maintained by judicious green and other manuring.

In newly burnt off scrub land all that is necessary is to dig holes 15 to 18 inches in diameter, and about two feet deep, set the young plants in it, and partly fill in the hole with good top soil. The young plant, which consists of a sucker taken from an older plant, will soon take root and grow rapidly under favourable conditions, producing its first bunch in from ten to twelve months after planting. At the same time that it is producing its first bunch it will send up two or more suckers at the base of the parent plant, and these in turn will bear fruit, and so on. After bearing, the stalk that has produced the bunch is cut down; if this is not done it will die down, as its work has been completed, and other suckers take its place. Too many suckers should not be allowed to grow, or the plants will become too crowded, and be consequently stunted and produce small bunches. All the cultivation that is necessary is the keeping down of weed growth, and this, once the plants occupy the whole of the land, is not a hard matter. A plantation is at its best when about three years old, but remains profitable for six years or longer; in fact, there are many plantations still bearing good fruit that have been planted from twelve to twenty years.

Small or dwarf kinds, such as the Cavendish variety, are planted at from 12 to 16 feet apart each way, but large-growing bananas, such as the Sugar and Lady's finger, require from 20 to 25 feet apart each way, as do the stronger-growing varieties of plantain. Plantains are not grown to any extent

in Queensland, and the principal varieties are those already mentioned, the Cavendish variety predominating.

#### Chinese Cultivators.

In the North, the cultivation of this latter variety is carried out on an extensive scale, principally by Chinese gardeners, who send the bulk of their produce to the Southern States of the Commonwealth. The industry supports a large number of persons other than the actual producers of the fruit, and forms one of the principal articles of export from the North. As many as 20,000 or more large bunches of bananas frequently leave by a single steamer for the South, and the bringing of this quantity to the port of shipment gives employment to a number of men on tram-lines and small coastal steamers. The shipment of a heavy cargo of bananas presents a very busy scene that is not soon forgotten, and thousands of bunches of fruit that are piled upon the wharf or that are being unloaded from railway trucks, small steamers, or sometimes Chinese junks, forming such a mass of fruit that one often wonders how it is possible to consume it all before it becomes over-ripe. Still, it is consumed, or, at any rate, the greater portion of it is, as it is the universal fruit of the less wealthy portion of the community, the price at which it can be sold being so low that it is within the reach of everyone. A banana garden in full bearing is a very pretty sight, the thousands of "stools," each with its one or more bunches of fruit, as, where there are several stems it is not at all uncommon to find two or more bunches of fruit in different stages of development on the same plant, forming a mass of vegetation that must be seen to be appreciated. This is the case even with dwarf-growing kinds, but with strong-growing varieties, such as the Lady's Finger, the growth is so excessive that the wonder is, how the soil can support it.

Bananas do remarkably well in Queensland, and there is practically an unlimited area of country suitable for their culture, much of which is at present in a state of nature. Only the more easily accessible lands have been worked, and of these only the richest. Manuring is unknown in most parts, and as soon as the plantation shows signs of deterioration it is abandoned, and a fresh one planted out in new land, the land previously under crop with bananas being either planted in sugar cane, or allowed to run to grass. This is certainly a very wasteful method of utilising the land, and the time will come, sooner or later, when greater care will have to be given to it, and that once land has become impoverished by banana culture, it will have to be put under a suitable rotation of crops, so as to fit it for being again planted to bananas. The trouble is, Queensland has too much land and too few people to work it; hence, so far, it is impossible to use it to anything like the best advantage. During the year 1905 the production of bananas in Queensland was over 2,500,000 bunches, and when it is considered that each will average



about 12 dozen fruit, it will be seen that already a very large quantity is being produced. There is, however, plenty of room for extension, and any quantity of available country; but before this extension can be profitable, steps will have to be taken to utilise the fruit in a manner other than its consumption as fresh fruit, and this in itself will mean the opening up of new industries and the employment of a considerable amount of labour. Twelve dozen has been mentioned as the average quantity of fruit per bunch, but it is frequently much more than this, and bunches of 25 to 30 dozen fine fruit are often seen grown on strong young plants on rich new land. Although the industry in the North is now largely in the hands of Chinese gardeners, there is no reason whatever why it should not be run by white growers, as is done in the South, and there is no question that the white-grown bananas in the South compare more than favourably with the Northern Chinese-grown article, despite the fact that the latter has every advantage in climate and an abundance of virgin soil.

"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are connected with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.

### TECHNICAL TRAINING IN NATAL

A proposal is under consideration for providing separate chairs of Entomology, Bacteriology, and Chemistry at the Durban (Natal) Technical Institute. From a speech delivered by Mr. Fowler, the President of the Natal Sugar Association, reported in the *Natal Agricultural News*, it appears that in principle the proposal is warmly approved by that body. Mr. Fowler said that the matter should be taken up seriously, and urged the members not to wait until the Uba cane were diseased. They wanted a school in Durban where their own chemists, entomologists, and bacteriologists could be trained to the special needs of the country, so that they would not have to look overseas whenever help was wanted.

Mr. Fowler submitted the following proposal for raising the necessary funds:—Planters to agree that all mill-owners should deduct  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. each month from their cane payments, mill-owners to agree that all selling agents in Durban be allowed to deduct  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. from their monthly account sales, the proceeds of such  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. to be earmarked for a central fund to be administered by the General Committee of the Association for the time being in office. Estimating a total sugar crop of 100,000 tons at an average all-round price of £15 per ton, this would yield an annual income of, say, £3,750, and would enable (a) the establishment of the three chairs above mentioned; (b) a properly-

equipped cane experiment station under the direct control of the industry; (c) such other purposes as might from time to time be decided, probably including the establishment of a central sugar exchange. Under this scheme the mill-owners would pay £3,750 per annum, but out of this £3,750 they would recover £1,500 from the planters, such £1,500 representing  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of the value of 1,000,000 tons of cane sugar at 12s. per ton—so that the mill-owners' contribution would be £2,250 and the planters' £1,500.

### REVIEWS AND PERIODICALS.

Dr. H. A. Tempany contributes to the first number of Volume XV. of the WEST INDIAN BULLETIN an interesting account of Redonda, a small dependency of Antigua, of which little is heard. The island, which is a mile in length and a third of a mile wide, is at present leased to Messrs. Forbes, Abbot and Leonard, who pay £50 a year for the privilege of working the phosphate deposits which it contains. It is in the main a hard and compact mass of volcanic rock rising from cliffs of 200 to 600 feet in height, to upwards of 1,000 feet. The phosphatic mineral occurs as veins in the rock, and is mined by blasting and digging from the surface, the work being performed by labourers from Montserrat, with which island, about fifteen miles to the north-west, communication is maintained by sloops. Redonda is dependent on the rainfall for its supply of fresh water, and has no agricultural value, the only vegetation consisting of the prickly pear (*Opuntia*), and cacti, notably *Cercus*. The silver and gold ferns also occur in abundance in the sheltered crevices of the rocks. An analysis of Redonda phosphate shows the composition to be, water 21.1 per cent., phosphoric acid 30.2, lime 3.1, silica 20.6, alumina 15.7, and iron oxide 3.6. As the phosphatic material is present in the form of aluminium phosphate its value is reduced as it is unsuitable for the manufacture of superphosphate of lime. Its main application is, apparently, for direct use as a fertiliser, after being finely ground. Other articles in the BULLETIN deal with the development of agriculture—an address by Mr. A. D. Hall, delivered at last year's meeting of the British Association in Australia, and articles on the poisonous forms of the Lima bean, and skin diseases of cattle in Antigua by Mr. W. R. Dunlop and Mr. P. T. Saunders respectively. THE BULLETIN OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (Vol. xiii. No. 2) contains an article on "The Field and Forest Resources of British Guiana," by Professor J. B. Harrison, Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture. There are estimated to be 57,770,000 acres of land in British Guiana, of which only about 2,000,000 are alienated from the Crown. The remainder is open for beneficial occupation, and it is estimated that of this vast area over 9,000,000 acres are easily accessible. The major portion of the easily accessible area is suitable

for the cultivation of many tropical products. In particular, Professor Harrison considers that the enormous area in British Guiana, pre-eminently suitable for the cultivation of rice, should enable the colony to supply the requirements of the West Indian Islands of that foodstuff. He shows that British Guiana is a land of vast potentialities, limited, however, by lack of transport facilities, labour and capital. In the same number it is recorded that among the commodities recently analysed by the scientific department has been a sample of banana meal from Jamaica. It was found that compared with wheat flour or maize meal this banana meal contains a smaller percentage of proteins, and its nutritive value is consequently lower. The percentage of mineral matter in the banana meal is, however, higher. The meal is of a light, sandy colour, and possesses a rather pronounced aroma. It is considered that it will prove useful locally as a partial substitute for wheat flour or maize meal.

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:*

Abrahams, Mr. Cyril (of Kingston, Jamaica) has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Cox, E. H. (Assistant Master Wolmer's School, Kingston, Jamaica), has joined Kitchener's Army.  
 Davidson, 2nd Lieut. Kirk (son of Mr. Alexander Davidson, of Kingston, Jamaica), The Cheshire Regiment.  
 Gill, Lieut. Dr. G. F. (of Spanish Town, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Grell, Private John Herbert Milner (son of C. H. Grell, Dominica), Dominica Defence Force.  
 Kidston, 2nd Lieut. Malcolm C. (son-in-law of Mr. Dutton Lund, of Montego Bay, Jamaica), 1st Lowland Division, Royal Field Artillery.  
 Lamport, 2nd Lieut. J. F. (late of British Guiana), 11th West Riding Regiment.  
 Lawson, Sergeant John (was overseer on Plantations Lusignan, Tnschen and Vergenøgen, British Guiana), 3rd Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force.  
 Madgwick, Private Alvah Alexander Robert (son of J. A. Madgwick, Dominica), Dominica Defence Force.  
 Michaels, Aubrey Vivian (of Kingston, Jamaica), Army Veterinary Corps.  
 Noble, Colonel John (brother of His Honour the Resident Magistrate for Clarendon, Jamaica), Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
 Riviere, Sergt. (Transport Dept.), Donald O. (son of the late Mon. D. Riviere, M.L.C. Dominica), Dominica Defence Force.  
 Roxburgh, Alan C. (son of Mr. Adam Roxburgh, J.P., St. Ann, Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, Cavalry Section.  
 Salvador, Private M. F. (late champion cyclist of British Guiana and the West Indies), 1st Canadian Contingent at the Front.  
 Skeete, Serpt. Harold B. (of Barbados), 6th Field Ambulance Corps, 2nd Canadian Contingent.

Wildy, Hugh F. (of Nevis, British West Indies), Army Service Corps, Mechanical Transport Section.  
 Wilson, 2nd Lieut. Wilfrid Gordon (son of Mr. Charles Wilson, of the Mirreles Watson Co., Ltd.), Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.  
 Wolffsohn, Corporal Arthur Norman (son of Hon. S. Wolffsohn, member of the Legislative Council of British Honduras), 2—3rd Regiment Scottish Horse.  
 Yearwood, Carleton (of Barbados), No. 6 Field Ambulance, Canadian Contingent.

### Honours.

Second Lieut. Neville L. C. de Rinzy, 2nd Battalion East Yorkshires, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in trying to rescue a wounded soldier at Ypres on the 24th April, when he was himself seriously wounded. Mr. de Rinzy was born in Demerara. He is the son of Col. G. C. de Rinzy, Inspector-General of Police and Commandant Local Defence Force, British Guiana.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Baynes, Miss G. L. (of Antigua, daughter of the late Hon. Edward Baynes, Commissioner of Montserrat), appointed to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, now on duty in Egypt.  
 Davidson-Houston, Lieut.-Col. W. B., C.M.G. (Commissioner of Montserrat) has been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General on the Staff.  
 de Roux, Louis (son of Mr. J. G. de Roux, J.P., of Clarendon, Jamaica), 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
 Hamilton, 2nd Lieut. Cleveland (son of Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.), 3rd Battalion The Buffs Regiment.  
 Herbert, 2nd Lieut. Edward Grafton, 13th Warwickshire Regiment.  
 Honey, Miss Eulalie (daughter of the late T. A. Honey, J.P., Sav-la-Mar, Jamaica), of the Riversdale Hospital, Toronto, nurse with the Canadian Contingent.  
 Honey, Miss Gladys (daughter of the late T. A. Honey, J.P., Sav-la-Mar, Jamaica), of the Riversdale Hospital, nurse with the Canadian Contingent.  
 Howl, Lieut. Fred. (grandson of the late Mr. W. O. Berekendorff, of London and Jamaica), 10th Cheshire Regiment.  
 Lorimer, 2nd Lieut. J. Scott (grandson of the late Mr. Robert S. Lorimer, of Plantation Wales, W. B. Demerara), who first joined the Artists' O.T.C., 28th Battalion County of London Regiment, as a private, now holds a commission in the 1st Norfolk Regiment.  
 Lucie-Smith, 2nd Lieut. J. D. (son of the late Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, Postmaster of Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.  
 Messervy, Lieut. Roney Forshaw, 11th Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. *At the Dardanelles.*

### Died of Wounds

Lieutenant B. M. B. Bateman, of the 108th Battery Royal Field Artillery, who was very seriously wounded near Ypres, has, we regret to state, succumbed to his wounds in the Alexandra Ward at St. Thomas's Hospital. Lieut. Bateman, who was the son of Lieut.-Col. B. M. Bateman and Mrs. Bateman, formerly of Barbados, who are both serving their country, was awarded the Military Cross for bravery, though unfortunately he did not live to know that it had been bestowed upon him.

Second Lieutenant Philip Brydges Gutierrez Henriques, 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifles, has, we regret to state, died of wounds received in action. He was the only child of Mr. Philip G. Henriques, of Normandy Park, Guildford, and 33, Grosvenor Place, S.W., chairman of Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., who married, in 1892, Beatrice, eldest daughter of Sir George Faudel-Phillips, Bt., G.C.I.E., formerly Lord Mayor of London, and of Lady Faudel-Phillips, sister of Lord Burnham. He was born in 1894.

Captain J. K. Martin, who has, we regret to say, been killed in action, was for some time Private Secretary to Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissioner of Montserrat, and Clerk of the Council of that Presidency. Captain Martin was the son of Canon Martin, of Stockton-on-Tees, who only recently lost his son-in-law, Captain Usher. Returning to England soon after the outbreak of war he was gazetted to the 10th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, and left for the Front soon after Easter.

### Killed in Action.

Henry Kerr, of the 1—4th Royal Scots, who, we regret to state, was killed at the Dardanelles on July 28th, was the youngest son of the late Mr. W. L. Kerr, of Jamaica. He was 23 years of age.

Second Lieutenant John Hardy Musson, of the Royal West Surrey Regiment, was, we regret to state, killed in France on July 19th. A member of the Barbados family, he was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and Lille and London Universities. At King's School he was in the first boat, first athletics, and second football team. He was gazetted from Sandhurst to the Second Battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment in February, 1915, and left for France on May 24. His commanding officer writes:—"The battalion has lost a brave and valuable young officer." Second Lieutenant Musson was 20 years of age, and was the son of Mr. S. P. Musson, of Kinnaid House, Upper Norwood.

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

On behalf of the Army Council, the West India Committee continues to receive and distribute among the hospitals receiving wounded soldiers and sailors and our troops at the Front gifts of fruit, preserves, and tobacco. They are also passing forward similar gifts to the Grand Fleet.

In Jamaica, the Jamaica Agricultural Society is doing splendid work in receiving, packing, and forwarding gifts, and the *Macanars*, which reached Liverpool on July 6th, brought 60 cases of oranges, 10 of grape fruit, 8 of preserves, and 9 of banana figs packed by that organisation. Included with the consignment were 11 cases of gifts for individuals. As, however, these are not accepted for free delivery, permission having been obtained by cable from Jamaica, they were forwarded to the British Red Cross Society for general distribution. The *Camilo*, which arrived at Bristol on August 1st, brought the undermentioned gifts, which were distributed as stated:—

- 108 cases oranges—Hospitals.
- 40 cases grape fruit—Grand Fleet.
- 10 cases limes—Hospitals.
- 4 cases preserves—Hospitals for Indians.
- 3 cases sundry gifts—British Red Cross Society.
- 45 cases ginger sugar from the Christiana Branch—Grand Fleet.

All these gifts were carried freight free by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, who also rendered valuable assistance by having the fruit repacked where necessary.

In the distribution of gifts received by the R.M.S. *Victoria*, which arrived at Liverpool on

July 27th, having been carried free of charge by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the help of Mr. W. Speed, the Secretary of the West India Association of Liverpool, was invoked and ungrudgingly given. The Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee sent 32 cases of limes, 4 cases of oranges, and 10 of preserves, which were sent to the hospitals. The Dominica Agricultural Society were responsible for 27 cases of limes, while from Grenada the Hon. D. S. de Freitas and Mrs. Brodie each forwards a case of comforts, and Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Editor of *The West Indian*, sent nine barrels of limes, which were supplemented by a barrel of fruit from Mr. de Freitas.

From enquiries made of the British Red Cross Society, it appears that some little time must still elapse before the second Barbados and Trinidad Motor Ambulances are ready for delivery. Meanwhile the first cars given by the people of those Colonies continue to do admirable work. Mr. J. Corbett Light, the driver of the Trinidad Motor Ambulance, wrote on July 20th:—"The Trinidad No. 1 Car (Singer) is going very strong. Her mileage out here to date is 2069, 267 stretcher cases, 285 sitting, and large quantities of hospital stores. There seems to be no ending to this terrible war."

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee coloured Map of the West Indies should find a place in all West Indian Government Offices and foreign consulates. Regarding it Mr. E. H. S. Flood, the Canadian Trade Commissioner, whose headquarters are at Bridgetown, Barbados, writes under date June 17th:—

"I should like to say a word in appreciation of your new Map of the West Indies, one of which I now have hanging in my office. I find it most useful. It is very clearly drawn and printed in good colour. It is not confused with too many details, and gives all the important facts I require, not the least being the distances from one important point in the West Indies to another and to the principal American and European ports.

"I should think it would be indispensable in all leading commercial and public offices in these islands, and an excellent map for schools."

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

THE exports of cacao from the Gold Coast in the first five months of the current year amounted to 88,099,200 lbs. valued at £1,505,261. The total exports for the year 1914 were 118,256,320 lbs., valued at £2,193,678.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

**The Royal Commission on Sugar.**

In the House of Commons on July 28th Mr. Bigland asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it was the intention of the Government to continue the monopoly of the purchase of sugar until the termination of the War; if so, would the present Home Secretary take over his work in this connection; and would the responsible Minister give an undertaking that all commissions paid to brokers or merchants should be confined to firms of British origin and associations.

Mr. McKenna: I am unable to make any statement in reply to the first part of the question. No change is contemplated in the membership of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, whose practice it is to pay no commissions on the purchase of sugar. The Commission, as is customary, buy at a net price from the Colonial or foreign sellers.

Mr. Bigland: I am perfectly aware that that is the custom. I would like to know if the German firms already employed in this business will be discontinued. Mr. McKenna: There is no German firm employed in this business.

Mr. Butcher asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Mr. J. J. Runge, of the firm of Tolme and Runge, was appointed expert adviser on sugar to the Royal Commission on Food Supply in August, 1914; and whether, in view of the important information of which such expert adviser necessarily became possessed and of the fact that Mr. Runge was a member of a German firm at Hamburg, he would take steps to appoint a man of British origin in lieu of Mr. Runge.

Mr. McKenna: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Mr. Runge is not a member of any firm at Hamburg or any German firm. He is a natural-born British subject whose father was born in Cuba, and has the well-deserved confidence of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply.

Mr. Peto: Is it not a fact that this firm was employed to make very large purchases of cane sugar as well as beet sugar, although they have no special connection with the cane-sugar market, while English firms have?

Mr. McKenna: If the hon. Member had listened to my reply to the question he would have heard that the father was born in Cuba, and lived there all his life. Like all other British firms, they have considerable experience of beet sugar.

Mr. Butcher further asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the firm of Tolme and Runge has been allowed to do business in purchasing sugar on commission for the Government and other principals since August, 1914, while Mr. Runge had been acting as expert adviser on sugar to the Royal Commission; and whether he would take steps to terminate this state of things and to employ only firms of British origin and associations to purchase sugar on their behalf.

Mr. McKenna: Messrs. Tolme and Runge have bought no sugar on commission for the Government. As already explained, the Royal Commission buy sugar at a net price from the Colonial or foreign seller. Mr. J. J. Runge has retired during his employment by the Royal Commission from all participation in the business of Messrs. Tolme and Runge.

Mr. A. M. Wolffsohn, son of Hon. S. Wolffsohn, of British Honduras, who was born in the West Indies, and is now a corporal in the Scottish Horse, is a marksman of no mean ability. At a musketry course at Spilsby his squadron's average was 11.5 out of a possible 15, while he himself scored 74 out of a possible 75.

## NATURE NOTES.

A CONSIDERABLE amount of work has lately been done on the subject of the sterilisation of fruit by pressure. Peaches and pears which have been exposed to pressures of 60,000 lbs. on the square inch for thirty minutes never spoiled, even after four years' keeping. Plums also have kept very well after the treatment, but with raspberries and blackberries, as well as with tomatoes, this treatment has quite failed. With pines better results are obtained. With grape juice a pressure of 100,000 lbs. maintained for ten minutes completely stops all tendency to fermentation.

THE Philippine Bureau of Science, says the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, has recently been investigating a newly-discovered oil-bearing seed found abundantly in the Island of Catanduanes. It grows on a large tree, and comes from a pear-shaped fruit, which opens not unlike a cotton ball when ripe and emits the seeds. The latter are rough in surface, and of a dark brownish colour, about the size of a large dried prune, and slightly kidney shaped. The tree is thought to belong to the genus *Amoora* or *Dysoxylum*.

TRADITION shows that before the advent of petroleum, the inhabitants of Catanduanes Island used the oil from these seeds as an illuminant. The method used was to grind the seeds to a fine consistency in crush hand-mills of stone, or to grate them on rough surfaces. The resulting grindings or gratings were cooked and then put in a sack and subjected to pressure. In the view of the increased use of coco-nut oil in the manufacture of edibles, it is hoped that the new oil may be substituted for it in the manufacture of soap.

In a recent *Report of the Agricultural Station of St. Croix*, Mr. L. Smith describes a fungus which has caused serious trouble with the cotton in that island. The trouble is thought to be due to a *Macrosporium*, possibly *M. nigricantium*, associated with the black rust of cotton in the United States. Another cotton disease, causing a blistered and torn appearance of young leaves, and the abortion and blackening of young flower-buds, is thought to be practically identical with a disease which causes a disorder of cotton in the U.S.A.

THE April number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research* contains a preliminary report on the subject of Citrus canker. The organism which appears to be at the bottom of the trouble is a new species, and has received the name of *Pseudomonas citri*. When the canker is soft and young, the organism is in a very active condition, and can be isolated very readily. The open surface and the spongy nature of the canker afford a lodging for spores of every description, and fungi are found which may play a secondary part in the development of the disease.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. GEORGE EDWARD GRAHAM has been appointed Manager of the Belize Estate and Produce Company in British Honduras in succession to the late Hon. Alan Dredge.

THE efforts of Mr. A. C. Robinson, Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, to establish a turtle-canning industry in that Dependency of Jamaica are meeting with success. A factory has now been erected in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, by an American syndicate, which proposes not only to put up turtle soup in tins, but also to can the meat.

PROFESSOR MAXWELL-LEFROY, late entomologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and now Professor of Entomology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, and Hon. Curator of the Insect House at the "Zoo," seems really to have awakened public interest in the fly peril. He is heading an active campaign for ridding our homes from the common house fly, which is the carrier of typhoid and many other diseases, and has devised a very effective anti-fly powder, the chief ingredients in which are casein and brown sugar.

A CORRESPONDENT recently sought information regarding the Mosquito Plant. We referred the enquiry to Dr. Francis Watts, who writes that the Mosquito Plant, known to botanists as *Ocimum viride*, is a native of West Africa, and as far as he is aware is not naturalised in the West Indies. Seeds, however, were introduced into Barbados during May, 1903, from Sierra Leone. The species sometimes employed in the West Indies to repel mosquitos is apparently *Ocimum micranthum*, but even this does not occur in profusion, though it occurs as a weed in many of the islands. Griesbach gives the habitat as Cuba and Mexico to Brazil.

MR. W. M. CUNNINGHAM, who, we regret to say, died recently at Sapele, Southern Nigeria, where he was the manager of the Ologo Rubber Estate, spent some years in Jamaica and the Bahamas. He went out to the former island in the autumn of 1903, and after being in the employ of the United Fruit Company for a few months, became Assistant Superintendent of the Experiment Station at Hope Gardens, where he carried out a successful trial with curing Sumatra leaf tobacco under Mr. Fawcett. From Jamaica he went to the Bahamas to organise a Department of Agriculture, the existence of which was ended after six years owing to the grant for its upkeep not being renewed by the Legislature. Mr. Cunningham returned to Scotland, and very soon was selected by Messrs. Miller Bros., of Liverpool, as manager of their estate.

At the Annual Meeting of the Natal Sugar Association in June, Mr. David Fowler, the President, mentioned that since the outbreak of War, sugar prices had been lower in South Africa and Aus-

tralia than in any other consuming countries in the world. In Australia there had been Government intervention, but in South Africa nothing of the kind had occurred, the action of the producers having been voluntary—a fact which deserved recognition. He went on to say that if South Africa had had to rely upon oversea sugar since the outbreak of War, the public would undoubtedly have gone short at times, and consumers would have had to pay at least £400,000 more for their supplies than they had done. This surely established the value to South Africa of having a sugar industry within the borders of the Union.

It has been announced by cable that President Guillaume, of Haiti, was dragged from the French Embassy at Port au Prince during a revolution on July 25th and shot dead. A later message stated that he had been succeeded by Rosalvo Bo Bo. A correspondent who has resided for many years in Haiti writes to the CIRCULAR:—

Vilbrun Guillaume made himself president at the beginning of the year and had, as Governor of the Port-au-Prince, a brute, quite a common bushman, named Oscar. When the revolution broke out there were a number of political prisoners at Port-au-Prince, and Oscar, apparently on orders from V. Guillaume, had them shot, a thing never done in Haiti; at this the populace of Port-au-Prince, Guillaume's own partisans included, were so furious that they all took up arms together and Guillaume took refuge in the French Legation and Oscar in the Dominican. These Legations were invaded and both were dragged out and shot. This was to have been expected, and I can only presume that Oscar must have been drunk, as any man in his common senses would have known that Port-au-Prince would never allow political prisoners to be put to death in such a wholesale way. All parties would unite and punish it. This is all I can gather from the scanty cables I have received and from my knowledge of Port-au-Prince.

WE heartily congratulate M. Georges Dureau upon the reappearance of his paper, the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the publication of which was suspended just a year ago in consequence of the disorganisation which resulted from mobilisation. For the present, the *Journal* will be published fortnightly, but when circumstances permit it will again be issued weekly. The leading article, which deals with the French sugar market in 1914-15, shows that M. Dureau has continued to keep in close touch with the sugar world in spite of his enforced idleness—as far as his editorial duties are concerned. An article from his pen entitled "The English Sugar Market and the War of 1914," which appears in the June number of the *Journal des Economistes*, of which M. Yves Guyot, another old friend of the West Indies, is Editor, tells the same story. In this article M. Dureau gives a faithful record of the circumstances attending the appointment of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, reviewing at some length the action taken by the West India Committee on behalf of the West Indian sugar producers, and especially in the direction of endeavouring to secure a preference for British Colonial sugar and rendering the consumer independent of German and Austrian sugar in future.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

AUGUST 4th, the anniversary of the declaration of War against Germany, was marked by religious observances in the cities, town, and villages of the Kingdom. The King, who was accompanied by the Queen and Princess Mary, attended an Intercession service at St. Paul's, and was greeted with every sign of loyalty and devotion by thousands of his subjects who lined the Mall, Horse Guards Avenue, the Embankment, New Bridge Street, and Ludgate Hill, along which his route lay. In accordance with His Majesty's desire that the solemnity of the occasion should be emphasised by simplicity, the usual ceremony at the City boundary was dispensed with.

The Cathedral was thronged by a great congregation representing every walk in life. Statesmen, Members of Parliament—the terms are far from synonymous nowadays—the Agents-General for the Colonies and Government officials were accommodated with seats in the chancel and transepts, but the nave was thrown open to the public. The King was indeed among his people. The uniforms of the Military Attachés struck a note of colour, as also did the now familiar blue uniforms with white facings and red ties of many wounded soldiers. After the first hymn, "Rock of Ages," the Archbishop of Canterbury delivered an impressive address—as it was officially called—taking as his text the words, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong," from the Corinthians.

With the rising of Parliament London has "emptied" at last. The verb is used in the accepted sense in this connection. A visitor to the City might think that London was never fuller; but Belgravia and Mayfair are deserted, and the blinds are close drawn over the windows of the fashionable West End, where economy has not prompted the use of old newspapers. With the Continental Spas virtually closed to visitors (though Italy and France are making a bold bid for visitors), such British health resorts as Harrogate, Bath, and Strathpeffer are reaping a harvest from those who must "take the cure," while seaside resorts on the West of England are profiting at the expense of those on the more exposed and consequently less favoured places on the East Coast.

In some quarters there has been a disposition to criticise our legislators for taking as much as six weeks' holiday while the nation is in peril. Last year Dr. Parkin got into hot water for stating at a banquet of the Royal Colonial Institute that the prestige of the great House of Commons had steadily gone down in the Dominions. There is no doubt whatever that it has gone down here also, and, though the people were not consulted when the Members voted themselves their £400 a year, many would willingly vote for an increase if they

could get an assurance that the House would still further shorten its sittings. The many vexatious and embarrassing questions by self-advertising Members of which Mr. Asquith complained force many people to this conclusion.

"PUNCH," which has often shown itself the bell-wether of public opinion, has enforced this view of late by cartoons and articles of biting satire. The many readers in the West Indies of our leading—one might say only—comic paper will have learned with regret of the death of Mr. Walter Emanuel, who is now disclosed as the contributor of the mirthful column headed "Charivaria."

VISITORS from the West Indies are conspicuous by their absence this year. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, who is usually as regular a migrant as the swallow, has, to the regret of his many friends in England, wisely decided to remain in Trinidad with his family, and the meagre passenger lists of the mail steamers show that many others are following his example. We are glad, however, to be able to record the safe arrival of the Hon. P. J. Dean, of Grenada, who is, we are glad to learn, in improved health; and to have with us Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Collens, V.D., the compiler of the valuable Trinidad and Tobago Year Book; the Hon. George Fitz-Patrick, the first East Indian to be appointed to the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr. T. L. Dunsire, from the same Colony.

THE Ocean Steamship Company, Ltd., and the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., of which Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co., India Buildings, Liverpool, are the managers, have inaugurated a monthly service of cargo steamers from Birkenhead to North Pacific ports, namely, San Pedro, San Francisco, Victoria, Vancouver, and Seattle via Kingston, Jamaica, and the Panama Canal. At present the steamers call at Kingston on the outward journey only; but Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co. inform the West India Committee that should opportunity occur of calling there also on the homeward voyage, they hope to take advantage of it. In view of the lack of freight facilities, of which Jamaica shippers are complaining, the Company should find the inclusion of a call at Kingston homeward, as well as outward, remunerative.

The new edition of "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies" is obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Victoria*, which is one of the vessels which it is proposed to use on the suggested monthly West Indian mail service, reached Liverpool on July 27th twenty-four hours late. For purpose of record, some notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by her too late for inclusion in last CIRCULAR, and by occasional opportunities, are given below. It is now stated that the R.M.S. *Magdalena*, which should have arrived in the Thames on August 9th, will not reach port before August 13th. It is hardly necessary to repeat that these constant delays cause the greatest inconvenience to the mercantile community. It will be gathered from the letters quoted below that the outlook in the West Indies generally is quite favourable, and that crop prospects are improving everywhere, the weather having been propitious.

### BRITISH GUIANA—The Planters' Association.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JULY 10TH.—At a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association, held on July 5th, Mr. H. E. Murray was re-elected Chairman, Mr. J. Gillespie, Mr. P. Cressall, Mr. H. Y. Delafons, and the Hon. G. R. Garnett, members of the Council and the Writer Secretary and Treasurer for the current year. So far 700 applications have been received for enlistment in the Demerara Contingent. Up to date \$3,900 have been collected for the Aircraft Fund. £100, collected by various children in the Colony for the Hospital Ships at Southampton, is being remitted by this mail to Colonel Anderson. A bazaar and entertainment in aid of the Belgian Relief and British Red Cross Funds was held on the 6th instant.

### DOMINICA—The Shipping Derangements.

MR. E. A. ACAR, JULY 8TH.—Shipping to Canada by Royal Canadian Mail is most uncertain, the boats arriving here full. I wish one could put this down to rapidly increasing trade, but I fear it is more likely due to general shipping derangements. The mail from home this time was six days late and she is leaving out St. Thomas so as to return on her usual date. The weather has been very wet for the past fortnight, causing damage to the young cacao that was setting, but trees are flowering again in places.

### JAMAICA—The Local Assistance Funds.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, JULY 26TH.—Mr. C. S. Anderson, the Island Treasurer, sailed for England on the 21st inst. The War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Central War Fund	11,993	12	5
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	4,800	9	8
Jamaica War Contingent Shilling Fund	29	8	5
Jamaica War Contingent Women's Fund	115	11	9
Jamaica Suffering Jews in Poland Fund	261	12	1
Khaki Prisoners' Fund	12	19	0

The other funds have not been augmented since last month, all energies having been devoted to the "Contingent Fund," for which £6,000 is now being sought. The Managing Committee of the Central War Fund have decided to devote £3,000 to the purchase of motor ambulances, to be marked "From the people of Jamaica" and to be presented to the War Office for use at the front.

Five hundred recruits for the Jamaica Contingent have been passed as medically fit. It has been finally decided that the cost of sending the Contingent to England must be borne entirely by the public subscription fund now being raised, and that general revenue cannot be expected to bear any of the cost in this connection.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society a resolution, submitted by the West India Committee, with reference to the sugar industry, was approved, and it was decided to frame a resolution in accord, and urging that preferential treatment be given by the Mother Country to Jamaica sugar.

### ST. KITTS—Dr. Numa Rats' Illness.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, JULY 8TH.—The mail steamer being several days late we have to post before receiving the latest English letters. I have only to report a continuance of fair, showery weather, good for the young crops, both cane and cotton. I regret to have to mention the serious illness of Dr. J. Numa Rat. The locally produced play on the 24th inst., "A Lord of the Isles," attracted a large audience and was a successful production. Mr. D. F. Delany as "The Lord," presenting the Governor of Arcadia, conducting, the several offices of his Colony, with the help of a page-boy, was very successful, his bland defence of several local foibles being very amusing. Miss M. Marshall as a Duchess on tour was excellent. Mrs. Wymer made a very attractive typist, to whose charms "The Lord" eventually succumbed; and Miss Doris Shepherd, Mr. A. W. Skinner, Mr. E. Meggs and Dr. E. W. Branch all filled their parts well. The three young Suffragettes, Miss Shepherd, Miss Mitchell and Miss Doris Davis made a charming picture which, in any country, from a masculine point of view, would help the cause.

### ST. THOMAS—The "Dannebrog" destroyed.

LAGTBORNE'S MAIL NOTES record the destruction by fire of the motor schooner *Dannebrog*, which has maintained communication between St. Thomas and St. Croix semi-weekly during the last three years. The fire was attributed to some gasoline on board her catching alight and exploding. The same paper records the loss of the East Asiatic Company's steamer *Samui* on her voyage from Copenhagen to Charlotte Amalia.

### ST. VINCENT—Sea Island Cotton Prices.

MR. W. N. SANDS, JULY 10TH. A representative meeting of cotton growers was held on 7th instant, presided over by the Administrator, when the price offered by the fine cotton spinners, through the British Cotton Growing Association for Sea Island cotton of 1915-16, was discussed. It was decided to seek further information on one or two points from the British Cotton Growing Association. The subject of the increased freight rates on cotton was also dealt with. The weather is wet, but not unseasonable, and as much progress as possible is being made with the planting of different crops. The Agricultural Department has had to take in hand an outbreak of what appears to be the Fall Army or Corn Ear Worm in Bequia, which was attacking badly all crops. Fortunately at the time of writing natural enemies of the "worm" have appeared in large numbers and were assisting greatly in checking the attack. Cotton worm has appeared this season much earlier than usual in St. Vincent and preventive measures have had to be taken against it.

### TOBAGO—Well Cultivated "War Gardens."

MR. DAVID G. HATT, JULY 9TH.—The first three weeks in June treated us very unkindly so far as rainfall was concerned. At the Botanic Station in Scarborough only 2.02 inches was recorded from the 1st to the 24th, during which period the great heat and prevailing high winds almost stifled the young corn planted in April with the early first rains for the season, and yams planted in May; but a welcome change occurred in the last week, when, within six days 2.40 inches fell, making a total of 4.42 as against 6.63 for the corresponding period last year. July opened out in grand form, regular old-time heavy showers are falling day and night at frequent intervals, putting every one in glorious spirits over future prospects, as we are one and all keenly interested and dependent upon agriculture now, as may not have been the case a year ago before the outbreak of the War, when imported foodstuffs from America and Canada rose considerably in price. There are more

carefully cultivated vegetable gardens in existence to-day than heretofore, commonly called "War gardens," hence the interest generally evinced by everyone over the rainfall. From 1st July to date of writing 8.57 inches are recorded at the Botanic Station. The annual rainfall for the Island in the Windward district is 84.00 inches; in Scarborough half of that quantity, and at Black Rock and Crafston a third. Since the streets in the capital have been petroleumed, we no longer suffer from dampness or mud during the wet season, as immediately after the heaviest shower of rain in runs off rapidly and the streets are dry in no time. Nor do we suffer from dust in the dry season as before-time, which is a distinct blessing to man and beast. Of the twelve principal rivers which empty themselves into the twenty-two bays around the Island, ten are already bridged over with substantial structures of iron, steel, and reinforced concrete, when the other two, that over Betsy's Hope and King's Bay, both in the Windward district, are bridged, one will be able to travel dry shod from Milford to Charlotte Ville, a distance of 393 miles. This is all due to the energetic Public Works Department, of which the Hon. Archibald G. Bell, C.M.G., M.I.C.E., is the supreme head, and the wise management of local affairs by Mr. Alfred Eden Hitchens, who might justly be described as the Director of Public Works for Tobago. So far as the crops go, cacao is almost finished, and so is tobacco; sugar making will have to cease now, owing to the heavy rains, to be resumed shortly before Christmas. Coco-nuts and copra are exported the year through. The exports of Tobago from January 1st to March 31st are as follows:—

1913	...	...	£23,485	17	2
1914	...	...	23,001	19	4
1915	...	...	25,340	8	2

In the present year cacao stands responsible for £15,445 6s., vegetables for £2,371 12s. 6d. not including peas, which is classed separately, £585 15s.; coco-nuts and copra, £3,584 4s.; horses and other live stock, £2,375 16s. 8d.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, of King's Bay Estate [cacao, coco-nuts, fruits and timber] is booked to sail for his native country by the present outgoing mail steamer, to return in November, should enemy airships and submarines not prevent him doing so. Mr. Reid is an ideal planter, none knows better than he does, the secret of working along with his labourers in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, without having recourse to the law courts with its existing interminable delays, and it is a pleasure to record that the other planters have not been slow to follow in his wise footsteps. King's Bay is a lovely place, with its spacious land locked harbour, and Princess Marie Louise, on her visit there a year ago, was enchanted with the place, as are all visitors that are lucky enough to be invited to enjoy the owner's generous hospitality. This was the landing place of the first Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago, Alexander Brown, Esq., and his secretary, Mr. Gibbes, on the 12th November, 1764. We will be anxious until the cable announces the safe arrival of the *Victoria* at a home port, and rejoice on Mr. Reid's safe return to the land of his adoption. Mails from England, with letters dated London, 16th June, by the *Quillota*, arrived at Scarborough early on the 7th instant, and we feel deeply grateful at having got any at all under the circumstances. We have three days in which to reply to catch the *Victoria* at Port of Spain on the 12th.

#### TRINIDAD—Captain Saunders' Harbour Report.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JUNE 26TH.—In connection with Mr. Bell's successful motion to withhold the vote from women, a strange position arises. When the vote was passed, Dr. Prada asked whether it affected the question in Port of Spain, as well as San Fernando and Arima, also mentioned in the clause. The Attorney-General replied: "I think it does, because the clause is repealed." Then Sir Norman Lamont protested. The public shared his view and articles and letters have appeared in the Press agreeing with the latter. Mr. Bell now writes to the *Port of Spain Gazette*: "The lady burgesses of Port of Spain have not lost their votes . . . being given the vote by an existing

law, and can lose it only by that law being specifically repealed . . . the object of the clause was to extend the female suffrage to San Fernando and Arima, and as a matter of convenience Port of Spain was included to provide for all three in one clause." According to this San Fernando and Arima are alone affected. It is a pity this was not explained at the Council Meeting, and the question further arises whether the Attorney-General withdraws the opinion then given.

The Report of the Harbour Master for 1914-15 has been issued as Council Paper, No 76-1915, and, as usual, contains all the necessary information in brief, business-like and concise form. The Statement of Accounts in connection with the Gulf Steamers is, from a commercial point of view, excellent, showing the position of this profit and loss account with a correctness and clearness not always to be found with Government Departments. In this respect Captain Saunders sets an example which might with advantage be followed elsewhere. But there is a paragraph in the report which should not pass unobserved. It is this:—"The *Iere* and *Paria*" (Gulf Passenger Steamers), "especially the boilers, are in bad condition, and the service may have to be suspended. . . . It has already been necessary to reduce the pressure on both boilers from 100 lbs. to 75 lbs. the square inch. With a further reduction of pressure even, the engineer does not consider it safe to run them over a further two years without considerable expenditure. . . ." This will be disquieting information for passengers. It seems that there is at credit of the Depreciation Account the sum of £12,431 invested by the Crown Agents, but this can only be now realized at a loss. Therefore the purchase of a new steamer is postponed. But the cost of an accident might fall heavier on the Government, as in the case of the recent railway accident, on which a large sum is now in course of being paid, and the damages would not be lessened by reason of the warning now given.

The Alexandra Day ladies collected \$287, or thereabouts, which will go to provide a Base Hospital outfit in their name.

Cacao prices fluctuated considerably during June. The first fortnight was marked by a tone of extreme dullness and prices declined steadily to \$12.50 and \$12.75 for Ordinary and Estates grades respectively. Later on, however, there was a rise of 2/- in London, followed very closely by a similar advance in the same market, and prices here stiffened immediately. The upward movement was enhanced by the fact that holders of contracts for future delivery were anxious, especially in view of the circumstances that so little of the crop remains to come in. Keen competition forced prices up to \$16, for Fine Plantation, and \$15.75 for good red Ordinary. Receipts from Venezuela have been coming forward regularly though in smaller quantities, changing hands at \$15.50 to \$15.75 as in quality. Shipments to 30th June amounted to 39,346,826, against 54,323,618 lbs. to same date last year, and 37,161,054 in 1913. By special permit a small lot of rubber, the first for the year, amounting to 810 lbs., was shipped to the United Kingdom, and a cargo of crude oil, also by special consent of the Governor, measuring 1,251,572 gallons was exported to the States by the Lake Petroleum Company.

JULY 12TH.—At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held on 9th inst., correspondence with regard to the Royal Mail service was read, and a discussion of some length occurred. The suggestion was made that steps should be taken thus early to insure no dislocation in the service, but, in the result, it was resolved . . . That it is undesirable at present to make any arrangements for the continuance or renewal of the existing contract with the Royal Mail S.P. Company, or to pledge the colony in any way as to its future action in the matter." The feeling was that any arrangements made during war conditions could only be binding on one side. Some members thought that with the excellent opportunities likely to offer, if not direct to Europe, in any case *via* New York, that the Colony might perhaps be able to dispense with a subsidised mail altogether. In this connection the Chamber received with genuine regret the resignation of Mr. E. C. Skinner, who has been for some years the popular attorney of the Royal



Mail Company here. He is about to leave the Colony, but will carry with him the best wishes of the mercantile community and of a large number of personal friends. The Chamber decided to afford financial assistance to enable an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition to be held annually in Port of Spain, following the good lead of the Board of Agriculture, who devote \$500 to the purpose.

The Hon. George FitzPatrick proceeds on his holiday to England to-day. You will remember that Mr FitzPatrick was specially deputed from the Colony to give evidence before Lord Sanderson's Committee on East Indian Immigration. He has since been appointed a member of the Legislative Council. He is also President of the East Indian National Association of Savana Grande, and a member of the Borough Council of Sanfermando, so that, in addition to his practice at the Bar, he finds time to do good and valued service publicly.

Mr. Bonar Law sent, through the Governor, a most gracious telegram of thanks for the congratulations wired to him by the Chamber of Commerce, and since confirmed by letter, on his appointment as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Some mails ago I referred in the CIRCULAR to the musical comedy composed by Mr. Justice Russell, and successfully presented at the Royal Victoria Institute, entitled "A Night at St. Mary's." Mr. Russell now desires me to state that the recitative air and trio beginning, "Ah, are you sleeping Love," which was very much admired, was not by him, but by a musician of eminence, well known in London and Viennese circles, Miss Florence May, authoress of a highly esteemed biography of the great composer Brahms. By the way, Mr. Russell is about to spend the Long Vacation in England.

The weather continues all that could be desired for growing crops.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during Month of June, 1915, were as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	738,162 "
B. N. America	45,000 "
France	2,012,650 "
United States America	1,626,900 "
<b>Total for June</b>	<b>4,422,712 "</b>
Shipped previously	34,924,114 "
<b>Total from 1st January</b>	<b>39,346,826 "</b>
To same date, 1914	54,323,618 "
" " 1913	37,161,954 "
" " 1912	35,491,269 "
" " 1911	35,100,943 "
" " 1910	39,277,699 "
" " 1909	34,472,394 "
" " 1908	29,725,362 "

**TURKS ISLANDS The New Lobster Canning Industry.**

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, JULY.—The weather has been very oppressive, some days the temperature between the hours of noon and 3 p.m. going as high as 94 deg., and owing to the absence of wind the mosquitos have been very troublesome. The total precipitation as registered by the United States Weather Bureau during June was 5.26 inches of which 3.97 fell on the 6th instant and .06 on the 16th instant. Heavy rain on June 6th has ruined the prospects of raising salt for at least another month at Grand Turk. At Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour they have their ponds arranged so that the fresh water can be let off to a great extent before there is time for it to mix with the brine, so that after about a lapse of a week they will be able to start raking again. Up to the end of June not a single bushel of salt had been raked at Grand Turk this season, and the prospects were not bright, whereas at Salt Cay and Cock Harbour they have been kept busy shipping and raking practically the whole year.

On the night of June 5th, during a severe thunderstorm, the Nova Scotia schooner *Edyth* went ashore at Salt Cay and after a survey was condemned. On the 12th the ss.

*Amanda* arrived from Halifax, N.S., this being the first steamer from there since the stranding of the *Anita* in December of last year. Great disappointment was felt when it was learnt that the *Amanda* was not calling at Grand Turk on her way north this trip, and great inconvenience was caused to many of the business firms, also to the Government. It was thought that after Messrs. Pickford & Black agreeing to call at Grand Turk both ways each month for the increased subsidy of £20 payable monthly, they would have shown some slight consideration and have let the Government know in time to make other arrangements, if possible, for mails and freight.

On the 16th instant His Honour the Commissioner, Mr. Whitfield Smith, left for Salt Cay to take passage on the ss. *Thalma* to Cockburn Harbour, where she went to finish loading her cargo of salt. His Honour returned to Grand Turk on the 22nd instant on the same steamer. Business at Grand Turk has been exceptionally quiet, the salt industry has been practically at a standstill. The ponds are now making again and with continued good weather may be raked towards the end of July. Fibre is still being extracted at Grand Turk and at Jacksonville, East Caicos, the recent heavy rain having done a deal of good to this industry. Large quantities of sponge is being shipped, for which we learn good prices are obtained. The Caicos Development Company are shipping large quantities of shells and canned lobster on each steamer to the United States.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

**Dominica Limes at the Front.**

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the two small boxes of limes safely received by me at the Front. The second of these parcels reached me just before I left for the coast as a casualty and I handed same over to the Sister in charge of the Hospital Train upon which I was travelling. These were the first limes they had received, and the Sister assured me that they would be a very real boon to many of the sick and wounded patients during their long and slow journeys. Some of the limes were, indeed, used at once.

I thought you would be interested to hear of the use made of the fruit sent and to know how much it is appreciated

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST LENNARD,

Capt. 6th Glouc. Regt.

**How to deal with Locusts.**

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—It seems almost incredible that thirty years have flown since Trinidad was visited by locusts, and yet your correspondent is absolutely right, for it was as far back as 1885 that Chaguaramas and the Islands of The Rocas were nearly devastated by them; and being one of the party of five—for which Mr. George Pitt, Junior, and I volunteered—that were instrumental in clearing the Colony of these pests, perhaps the following methods which we adopted may prove of interest to some of your readers: Wherever we found a large swarm of full-grown locusts we made two rings of trash and other dried material, which we thoroughly saturated with petroleum, and by means of garden pumps the trees and vegetation on which they were feeding; and then proceeded to light the outer ring first, so that when they rose they not only had to clear the flames of the inner ring but those of the outer, which were well alight: the result being that myriads were burnt to death, the stench from their dead bodies being in some places most unpleasant. Where we found the locusts lying we had the ground forked and a heavy deposit of unslacked lime placed thereon, and sea-water brought up in the empty petroleum tins, and the ground watered; the result being

that the volumes of steam given off by the lime caused the eggs to be boiled, and a boiled egg will not hatch. The destruction of these eggs was a most important feature, as the hen lays a cone- for want of a better word--which contains 72 eggs.

Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND WARNER.

### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.		Value
			Aug 9
	Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	95 1/2
	Barbados	3 1/2% Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1935	91
	British Guiana	3% Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
	Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	81 1/2
	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1934	81 1/2
	Jamaica	3 1/2% Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
	Jamaica	5% Redeemable 1922-44	75
	St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	95
	Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	91
	Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1922-44	74
	The Colonial Bank	...	4 19/32
7	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	...	81
5	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	...	87 1/2
4 1/2	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	...	85
5	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	...	92
4 1/2	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2% Debentures	...	100
6	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	...	14/-
6	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	...	97 1/2
6	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	...	7 1/2-8/-
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	...	3/-
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	...	1 1/2
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	...	28
7	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref	...	102
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	...	74
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	...	85
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	...	22 1/2
5 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 1/2% Cum. 1st Pref	...	8 1/2
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd "	...	8 1/2
5 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	...	9 1/2

#### The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

Presiding over the second Ordinary General Meeting on August 10th, Mr. H. N. Benjamin said that the progress had not been sufficient to warrant the presentation of a profit and loss or revenue account. The accounts and report showed that the proceeds of the oil sold and consumed as fuel, including the value of oil in stock at the beginning and end of the year, had been sufficient to pay for the cost of raising the oil and the local and London administration and working expenses, and to leave a small surplus of £2,038, which reduced the debit balance from £9,946, as shown in the accounts up to December 31st, 1913, to £7,907 25 at the end of December, 1914. A more stringent requirement with regard to the quality of fuel oil was accountable for the increase in the volume of stocks. To produce this improved quality the works of the United British Refineries, Ltd., had had to be added to, and the delay in obtaining the necessary plant, erecting it and getting it into working order was naturally increased by the war conditions. Dealing with the balance-sheet, the shareholders would notice that on the 100,000 "A" shares already issued there was 15s. per share paid up on December 31st, 1914. The balance had been called up during the current year, and the whole had been paid with the exception of the call on 200 shares standing in the name of the only alien enemy on the register. On the credit side the properties of the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., remained at the same figure as before, and the consideration given by the company for these properties was the large number of "B" and "C" shares which appeared on the debit side.

Negotiations for an improved lease from the Government in substitution for the lease held by the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., were proceeding, and it was some time since the new form of lease was agreed to in London.

During the year under review the drilling programme had been carried out, without, however, as great success

as had been hoped. Results were encouraging so far as obtaining flush production from the wells, but, with all their experts' experience and with all their energies devoted to the task, they had not yet secured a good settled production. Trinidad was an island of comparatively small area, the geological conditions prevailing being on a small scale, and, consequently, not only considerably involved, but calling for the most minute geological investigation, such as prevailed in few other petroleum-producing areas. Faults were frequent, and, owing to tropical growth on the surface, were not easily located. A few of the wells bored by the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., still continued to give oil; but, unfortunately, these more permanent wells were those which gave but a comparatively small supply per diem. Since January 1st, 1914, they had completed 22 wells, and two were in process of drilling. Of these 22 completed wells 15 were producing, four had been abandoned, and three were not producing for the moment. In addition, during the calendar year six wells, five of which were in existence when the company was established, had been deepened, with the result that all of them gave improved production, but one of them had since been abandoned, due to salt water trouble. The total production during the calendar year 1914 was 313,404 barrels, divided as follows: First quarter, 86,558 barrels; second quarter, 83,252 barrels; third quarter, 78,032 barrels; and fourth quarter, 65,562 barrels—in each case a descending quantity. An improvement was shown during the first quarter of the current year, when the production reached 76,824 barrels, but during the second quarter it was only about 65,400 barrels.

In conformity with the terms of the agreement of April 11th, 1913, between the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., and the United-British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., the latter company founded the United-British Refineries Co., Ltd., which undertook the treatment and marketing of the crude oil on a basis of participation in the proceeds. The sanction of the Treasury was obtained to the registration of this company and the issue of shares. A suitable and advanced method of treatment had been made the foundation of the company's refinery plant, the economical working of which for the benefit of all concerned gave rise to great expectations.

With regard to the future, Mr. Benjamin said "Since petroleum was first undertaken in Trinidad there have been discovered, as mentioned to you last year, the vast deposits of Mexico, where not only are the fields of enormous extent, but the deposits are such that individual wells give such gigantic production that it has been found impracticable to allow many of them to flow at full rate. Fortunately for us, the quality of our crude oil is superior to the Mexican crude; fortunately, also, Trinidad is a British colony, where political and other conditions are settled, and not erratic as in Mexico; but a large and very cheap neighbouring production is liable to offer serious competition for trade in which quality is of small importance compared with price. A natural market for our production is, of course, in the Island of Trinidad itself and in the adjoining West Indian islands, and steps are being taken by the marketing company to secure a substantial portion of the demand. Towards this end a storage and distributing installation is approaching completion at Port of Spain, and the means and facilities for transporting the oil are being increased by the United-British Refineries, Ltd. The marketing organisation will eventually, we hope, have at its back products obtained not only from our crude oil, but also from the crude oil of other producers in Trinidad, so that the broadening of the basis of supplies will enable sale contracts to be entered into with confidence, and should naturally imbue buyers with confidence likewise. One contract of substantial importance with a local corporation has already been obtained, and this company will benefit in the results. Thus the Port of Spain installation will find work to do promptly on its completion, which is promised some time in September-October. The holdings of your company include rights under about 826 acres of freehold land, of which the freehold of 342 acres belongs to your company and under about 5,986 acres of leasehold land. Of course, nothing like a large proportion of this acreage is likely to be productive, while only a portion of the promising

tory has been tested or worked. It will remain, for the only valid evidence—namely, the drill—to show how much of the promising territory is profitably productive.”  
Mr. Benjamin concluded by moving the adoption of the reports and accounts. The motion was seconded by Mr. F. C. Stoop and carried unanimously.

The production for week ended Wednesday, 21st July was 744 tons and for the week ended 4th August 882 tons.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                       |                     |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. A. K. Agar        | Mr. G. Graf         | Mr. W. F. Samuels      |
| H. E. Sir H. Heskeith | Mr. A. T. Hammond   | Mr. C. W. Scott        |
| Bell, K.C.M.G.        | Mr. A. S. Kernahan  | Mr. R. B. Short        |
| Mr. A. Campbell       | His Honour Leslie   | Mr. W. Smith           |
| Mr. J. W. Cathcart    | Jarvis              | Mr. R. Strang          |
| Mr. Cecil H. Chambers | Mr. M. Moody-Stuart | Mr. H. F. Wildy        |
| Mr. E. Fitzgerald     | Mr. A. E. Perkins   | and                    |
| Mr. W. M. Fletcher    | Mr. R. S. Reid      | Mr. H. Graham Yearwood |
| Mr. J. M. Fleming     | Mr. W. C. Robertson |                        |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
Lieut-Col J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
Hon P. J. Dean, St. Brannocks, Mundesley, Norfolk.  
Mr. T. L. Dunsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Rood Lane, E.C.  
Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisborough Green, Sussex.  
Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.  
Mr. J. A. Gordon, c/o C. W. Stevens, Esq., 16, Great St. Helens, E.C.  
Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
Mr. H. C. Morecom, Great Meols, Cheshire.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains unchanged at 5 per cent. as from 8th August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 98½ cum rights and 98½ ex rights, Old War Loan at 92½, and Consols at 65½.

**SUGAR**—No better illustration of the changed conditions as regards the sugar world could exist than in the drop in the price of sugar which has taken place in the last fortnight. When the United States not only absorbed the whole of their domestic and preferential sugars, but also drew upon outside sources, the period just before the starting of the Continental beet crop was invariably one of necessarily high prices. Then, as the crops of cane sugar controlled by the United States, those of Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Cuba, and Louisiana, and of their own soil, increased, there was an excess of sugar over requirements, and a portion of the Cuban crop—that is, of the sugar receiving the least fiscal advantage among those in the United States, began to go to other countries. Thus, out of the 1913-14 crop 232,864 tons came to this country, as against 177,620 tons in 1913, 83,455 tons in 1912 and 3,848 tons in 1911. Now, out of the crop just finishing 261,290 had been exported to this country up to the middle of last month, independent of the considerable amount of American granulated from New York, which may be also looked upon as due to Cuba. The filling up of American supplies with its own controlled sugars and the liberation of surplus Cuban sugars for general purposes now actually causes the price to fall, in spite of the fact that there is no German or Austrian sugar to anticipate. While this is due to the Brussels Convention that the British Government have been able to put their hands on a certain amount of sugar from British Colonies, it is none the less a fact that this country has escaped a sugar famine as the result of the present policy of the United States in protecting their own industry and giving preferential treatment to Cuba. In this connection also, it must not be forgotten that other countries, such as Peru, Brazil and the Argentine, by the stimulation of their sugar industries by protection tariff, which has been the means of producing a surplus of sugar available for exportation, have also contributed to this end.

It is an interesting fact that, out of the world's 18,000,000 tons per annum of sugar production, 13,350,000 are grown under protective tariffs, 3,100,000 tons receive preferential treatment in favoured markets, and 1,500,000 tons are produced on a free and non-preferential custom basis. In this connection it may be pointed out that the present United States Tariff as regards sugar comes to an end on May 1st of next year, at which date all sugars will enter that country free of duty. After the British experience it is doubtful whether this arrangement will be carried out, especially as the revenue deficit in that country is a serious one.

The estimates of the Mauritius crop are now to hand, and these show that 216,000 tons are expected as against 275,000 realized last crop. The latter crop was, however, abnormally large, and the coming crop, if the estimate is realized, will only be about 4 per cent. below the average.

Out of the \$16,246,091 worth of sugar imported into Canada for the year ending 31st March last, \$7,230,147 worth came from the British West Indies and British Guiana, \$1,780,368 worth from Fiji, \$1,009,407 from Cuba, \$1,406,112 from Peru, and \$2,891,238 from Santo Domingo. It will be remembered that Fiji was admitted to the benefits of the Canada-West Indian agreement by Canada without any *quid pro quo* from Fiji.

A rift in the lute is appearing in connection with the Java crop. The yields are said to be disappointing, which would appear to be a sequel to the gradual deterioration of the cane juice noticeable in the recent crops of that Island.

The Cuban crop progresses, and recent advices state that up to the 1st August, 2,421,222 tons have been made as against 2,468,528 to the end of July last year. Ten factories were working as against four last year.

In the London market the demand has been steady and

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to July 1, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to July 1, 1915	1914
Sugar	41,940	32,576 Tons.	8,655	9,221 Tons.
Molasses	...	65,861 Galls.	...	...
Rum	1,993,499	1,646,370 Galls.	418,441	872,365 Galls.
Molasses, &c.	579	1,051 Tons.	...	...
Cacao	31,868	33,437 lbs.	4,454,912	5,727,568 Lbs.
Coffee	75,983	196,664 "	4,813,648	5,479,256 "
Coco-nuts	1,049,659	1,091,071 No.	14,873,866	15,276,041 No.
Oranges	...	...	1,620,200	2,184,000 "
Bananas	...	...	5,101,278	9,209,006 Stems.
Cotton	...	...	21,927	32,607 Lbs.
Pimento	...	...	34,718	52,891 Cwts.
Ginger	...	...	6,966	15,368 "
Honey	...	...	55,232	127,645 Galls.
Dye-woods	...	...	22,209	35,129 Tons.
Gold	29,465	31,036 ozs.	...	...
Diamonds	471	6,051 Carats.	...	...
Rice	12,610,480	8,896,513 lbs.	...	...
Balata	847,650	350,310 "	...	...
Rubber	1,899	665 "	...	...
Timber	85,807	132,468 cubic ft.	...	...
Lumber	31,916	198,145 ft.	...	...
Lime (hydrate of)	7,939	2,421 lbs.	...	...

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to July 12, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to July 8, 1915	1914
Sugar	33,378	30,747 Tons.	24,531	27,622 Tons.
Molasses	2,245	3,007 Puns.	29,508	75,136 Puns.
Rum	3,033	668 "	...	...
Coco-nuts	5,117,725	3,617,145 No.	...	...
Asphalt	42,954	92,407 Tons.	...	...
Maniak	263	157 "	...	...
Bitters	760	9,736 Cases.	...	...
Coffee	10,240	37,973 lbs.	...	...
Crude Petrol	1,512,441	9,383,548 Galls.	...	...
Cacao	39,819,000	56,522,400 lbs.	...	...
Cotton	...	...	...	...
Seed	...	...	...	...
Copra	14,711	4,556 Bags.	...	...
Spice	...	...	...	...
Wine	...	...	...	...

	Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to June 27, 1914/15	1913/14
Cacao	10,244,700	11,543,400 lbs.
Bales	652	1,170 Bales
998	3,553 Bags.	
96	108 "	
803,670	954,530 lbs.	
3,160	3,960 "	

**Want.**

EXPERIENCED Sugar Planter and Manufacturer (over military age) open for an engagement. Thorough knowledge of Spanish.—Apply "Z," West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

sales of yellow grocery crystallised have been effected at slight advances. At auction sale on 6th 1,185 tons were put up and mostly sold at auction, and after 1,370 bags Demerara crystallised fetched 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d, 7,299 bags Trinidad, 25s. 9d. to 26s. 6d.; 1,583 bags St. Lucia, 25s. 14d. to 25s. 6d.. At auction sales to-day 960 tons were put up for sale, but the demand was very poor and only a small part sold at previous rates.

Tates cubes are quoted at 31s., White Javas 27s. and American granulated 29s.

The West Indian Sugar Statistics from January 1st to July 31st are :-

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	30,998	23,994	31,544	19,463	29,546
Deliveries ...	23,336	17,443	17,217	17,289	22,211
Stock	13,671	19,503	16,166	6,662	11,695

In the New York market there has been a considerable drop in values. At the date of the last summary the price of 96° duty paid sugar was \$4.83 to \$4.86, and of granulated \$6.00. On the 23rd the price of 96° sugar fell to \$4.77, and after touching \$4.39, and now stands at \$4.52. There has also been a considerable drop, much larger in proportion, in granulated, which now stands at \$5.50. The large domestic beet crop which, it is stated, may reach 850,000 tons, is assigned as the cause. Last crop realized 646,457 tons from 513,201 acres. The area to be reaped for the crop just beginning is 662,463 acres. At the same return per acre as for last crop, this would mean a 800,000 ton crop, and the weather reports which have obtained during the last two months do not justify this figure being exceeded. Besides the market is hardly sensitive enough for an extra 50,000 tons to have produced this drop and the cause should be sought elsewhere. Last week 30,000 tons of granulated were bought by the British Government.

**RUM**—The market continues very firm. No actual sales of Jamaica have taken place, but since last summary samples of parcels ex *Erymanthos* are now almost ready for the market, and for these the importers will probably obtain an advance on last rates. Proof kinds are firm, and sales to arrive have been effected at 2s. 6d. per proof gallon. The nominal spot value is 2s. 5d. The Western Australian Government have adopted the following as a definition of rum:—"Rum is spirit distilled wholly from sugar syrup, molasses, or the refuse of sugar cane, by a pot-still or similar process, at a strength not exceeding forty-five per centum over-proof, matured while subject to the control of the Customs by storage in wood for a period of not less than two years." This definition is faulty in many ways. It permits of spirit made from beet products and of spirit distilled from sugar in temperate climates being called rum. It shuts out Demerara rum, since, even when made in a pot-still, at one stage in the running the spirit is as high as 54° over-proof. It is a pity that the definition of the Royal Commission was not adopted as a basis.

The Stocks in London on the 31st July were :-

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	4,978	8,819	6,348	8,554	10,619
Demerara ...	5,125	10,953	7,634	6,495	5,275
Total, all kinds	18,599	27,270	21,581	22,472	25,723

In our last issue the price of Demerara Rum was inadvertently recorded as being 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. It should, of course, have been 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d.

**CACAO**—The Order in Council prohibiting the export of cacao and cacao products to European countries other than those of the Allies, Spain and Portugal, has had a depressing effect on the market, and there has been a drop of 10s. in Accra and Bahia cacao. West Indian varieties have, however, in view of the comparatively small quantities on the market, maintained their prices. No public sales have taken place since the 27th, to-day's sales having been postponed. Quotations are for Trinidad, 80s. to 83s.; for Grenada, 75s. to 80s.; but as matters now stand it is impossible to say how long these will continue.

The stocks in London on the 31st July were :-

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	11,672	10,910	11,795	7,522	8,661
Grenada ...	3,616	9,942	7,298	6,651	14,804
Total, all kinds	95,246	97,581	83,622	121,211	121,345

**COTTON**—Since our last report Sea Island cotton has been absolutely neglected. The importation of West Indian cotton, up to July 31st, for this year has been 2,848 bales, including 720 bales imported during last week.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil—Distilled is out of stock and supplies are greatly wanted. Early arrivals will fetch about 6s. 6d. per lb. Hand pressed—Fair sales have been made at 7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. per lb. Lime Juice—No business is reported in raw and concentrated, and prices remain unchanged. Citrate remains at £25 c.i.f. New York.

**SPICES**—Prices unchanged—Nutmegs—100/80's, 4½d. to 5½d.; 120/100's, 4½d. to 4½d.; 140/120's, 4½d. to 4½d. Mace—Good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 11d.; red to good, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d.; broken, 9d. to 1s. 4d. Ginger may be quoted, Rhatoon, 55s.; small to middling, 62s. 6d. to 68s.; good clean bold, 70s. to 75s.

**COPRA**—The West Indian market is quiet and fairly steady; present value £23 10s. per ton.

**RUBBER**—Market for all sorts dull, with declining tendency. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para 2s. 4½d., with soft at 2s. 2½d. Fine Castillea sheet is valued at 2s. 2½d., and scrap at 1s. 7d.

**BALATA**—Business has been very slow, a small parcel of sheet changing hands at 2s. 4½d. London landed terms. Block quotations nominal at 1s. 10c. c.i.f. for buyers 1s. 10½d. sellers.

**ARROWROOT**—Market quiet, with small business being done at late rates. Quotations, 2½d. to 4½d. per lb.

**HONEY**—The market is quiet, with little doing. Quotations are unchanged at, for dark common, 26s. to 27s.; for medium, 28s. to 31s.; for good, 33s. to 36s.; and for fine to finest, 37s. to 40s.

**MANURES**—The market has been generally firm. Sulphate of Ammonia may be quoted at £15 per ton; Nitrate of Soda, £13 per ton. As regards phosphates, high grade quotations of Basic Slag are very difficult to obtain. Ordinary value £3 5s. to £3 10s. Ordinary Superphosphate may be quoted at £31.5s. per ton, with Concentrated at £14 to £15.

**WOODS**—Mahogany.—Honduras at auction sales has met with fair demand at full prices. Quotations 5d. to 7d. *Lignum Vitae*.—Fair demand, Jamaica has sold at an advance, prices are from £6 to £16 per ton. *Satinwood*—There has been some enquiry for San Domingo, which may be quoted at 9d. to 1s. 6d. per super foot. *Cedar*—At the instance of Mr. Henry Warner the Trinidad Agricultural Society has urged the local Government to prohibit the export of cedar togs, which have been exported in large quantities to Holland. It is noteworthy that before the War the German merchants were buying up all the cedar they could get.

**TIMBER**—Greenheart.—British Guiana may be quoted at £11 to £13 per load of 50 ft.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

August 10th, 1915.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Victoria*, Liverpool, July 27th:—

Professor Carmody	Miss Fell	Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly
Hon. and Mrs. G. Fitzpatrick	Mrs. Fuller	Mr. & Mrs. H. Porter
Mr. R. S. Reid	Miss de La Frenais	Mr. T. M. Paterson
Mr. R. Strang	Mr. and Mrs. J. Gavey	Mr. T. H. Riddell
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Wildy	Miss Gavey	Mrs. Rankin
Mr. W. Ault	Dr. O. C. Greenidge	Mrs. Rapsey
Mrs. & Miss Beecher	Mr. and Mrs. Grieve	Mrs. L. Robertson
Mrs. M. Bowen	Mr. J. H. Haigh	His Hon. Judge Russell
Mrs. Bullbrook	Mr. Felix Jacoby	Mr. Charles T. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Bagot	Capt. J. E. Jackson	Mr. & Mrs. James P. Stirling
Mrs. J. A. Burdon	D.S.O.	Misses Stirling (2)
Miss A. Bowen	Mr. E. D. Laborde	Mr. R. A. Steel
Mr. R. E. Barton	Mr. C. Melhado	Mr. & Mrs. J. Soutar
Mr. A. de Creny	Mrs. McIntosh	Mr. Junck B. Smith
Mr. G. M. Campbell	Mr. S. W. Mathews	Miss J. Walsh
Mr. A. S. Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Milling	Miss Maria Waddington
Mr. & Mrs. J. Fell	Mr. M. Nicolson	Mr. W. A. Yearwood
	Mr. T. M. Oswald	

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SERTHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.,  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON. August 23rd, 1915.

### THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

IN June last the West India Committee, appreciating that war conditions—if not the war itself—would still be prevailing when, in the ordinary course of events, negotiations would be opened for the continuance of the mail service after the expiration of the present contracts in 1917, suggested the desirability of renewing the existing arrangements from year to year until normal conditions were restored, in order that the best terms possible might be secured. Since then, circumstances have arisen which render the further discussion of this proposition valueless. We refer, of course, to the action of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in terminating the present transatlantic mail contract and to their proposal to substitute a monthly service by 11-knot steamers, *Panama* and *Victoria*, for one-half the present subsidy. We are not surprised to learn that this development has caused very great dissatisfaction throughout the West Indies, evidence of which is afforded by the resolutions of the leading commercial bodies. Thus the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce favours a clean cut rather than the monthly service which it considers unacceptable, a view which is shared by the Barbados Chamber, whose Council, in a letter to the Governor, pointed out that "it would not be expedient to accept the alternative offer of a monthly service at reduced speed for half the subsidy." Both these islands are favourably situated with regard to mail communication, enjoying as they do frequent opportunities for the despatch of mails *via* United States, which are far quicker than the proposed 11-knot service—or

the service by 11-knot steamers which is not quite the same thing—and this no doubt influenced their views. British Guiana, on the other hand, is not in such a happy position, and consequently the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, while protesting against the new proposals has expressed its willingness to agree to them provided that the Inter-colonial service is reduced by half and the present homeward freight facilities are not curtailed.

Meanwhile the attitude of the Governments of the West Indian Colonies shows greater unanimity, and all have now practically agreed to the modified proposals. The Finance Committee of Trinidad and Tobago which, in a measure, controls the purse-strings of that Colony, after a conference with a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce which, we understand, adheres to the terms of its resolution, has decided to recommend the adoption of the proposals for one year, on the condition that Port of Spain remains the headquarters and the port of trans-shipment. They add, however, that the payment of three-eighths only of the present subsidy would be a fair one for the greatly reduced facilities to be afforded. The Barbados House of Assembly, who were at first not prepared to vote the subsidy, subsequently passed an Address by the narrow majority of two votes, in which they state that, while it would not be advantageous to the interests of the island to accept the offer, looking to those interests alone, they would agree to its acceptance if, in the opinion of the Imperial Government, the rejection of the offer would prove inimical to Imperial interests.

On Thursday, August 12th, the question of mail service was considered by the Executive of the West India Committee, whose views regarding it are recorded in a series of resolutions published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. It will be noted that on the whole the Committee take a stronger line than several of the Colonies. They feel that the substituted service should be a 13-knot one, that is to say, as fast as the now expiring one. Half the service for half the subsidy is, they consider, a fair proposition. The Committee have doubts of the value of a slower service, and they hold strongly to the view that if the speed is reduced the subsidy should also be further reduced. They further express the opinion that in any new arrangement that is agreed to, suitable provision should be made to ensure punctuality and that guarantees should be given that passenger fares and freight charges shall be kept within reasonable bounds, all matters which have been sadly neglected in former contracts. With regard to the Intercolonial service, which they would like to see maintained, it must be remembered that there are two contracts—one for the Transatlantic and one for the Intercolonial service. It is the former which is

to be terminated, and, however much we may regret their action, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are legally within their rights in terminating it, owing to their having been compelled by the Government to give up Southampton, the port of departure specified in the contract. There are, however, no legal grounds on which either the Company or the Colonies could terminate the Intercolonial contract, though it might be cancelled by mutual consent if a reduction of the service were insisted upon as a condition precedent to the adoption of the proposals for the modified ocean service.

The Colonies having, with a protest, agreed in principle to a monthly service as a temporary expedient, it now remains to be seen what the attitude of the Home Government will be and whether the Treasury will grant a subsidy for the proposed new service.

#### ARTESIAN WELLS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

ON another page in the present issue we publish a memorandum by PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON, Director of Science and Agriculture, and MR. E. C. BUCK, Director of Public Works, of British Guiana, with reference to a leading article in our issue of June 1st on the subject of artesian wells in that colony. In the public interest we gladly give publicity to this document, which has been forwarded to us with the sanction of the Governor of British Guiana. We should mention, however, that our remarks in regard to varying flows were based on the estimated discharge from the original deep boring at D'Urban Park, reported on by PROFESSOR HARRISON in August, 1913, when it was stated that rock was reached at a depth of 560 feet, and a supply of good potable water obtained, estimated at 1,250,000 gallons per day. These figures were embodied in an article which appeared in the CIRCULAR of October 7th, 1913, giving the history of old and recent artesian trial-borings in Georgetown and the country districts. A fortnight later it was noted, from information received from the colony, that the flow and pressure had increased. It would now appear, from PROFESSOR HARRISON and MR. BUCK's communication, that these early estimates were "entirely erroneous," the average actual output of the well being only "approximately 205,000 gallons per diem," subsequently further decreasing to 118,000 gallons at a level of 10 feet from the ground, and which it is said has not been materially affected by the later boring near the steamer stelling. We are not, of course, disposed to question the opinion of these two capable experts who are on the spot, neither, indeed, are we in a position to do so; but we still consider that caution should be exercised in the carrying out of the entire scheme proposed for the supply of artesian well-water for the city of Georgetown, involving, as it does, a large sum of money, in view of the great and varying disparity in the flow from the D'Urban Park well since it was bored two years ago.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the monthly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, August 12th. The members also present were:—Mr. R. Rutherford (Deputy-Chairman), Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Norman Malcolmson, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. H. D'E. Spooner and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

#### New Members Admitted.

The Secretary reported that the total membership of the West India Committee at that date was 1,499. The following were admitted members:—

Mr. W. Baggett Gray (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. William Wilson (Jamaica)	Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mrs. Vanier (British Guiana)	Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. Joseph Devenish (Trinidad)	Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. H. S. Smith (Venezuela)	Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. Francis A. Joaquim (Antigua)	Mr. C. Sandbach Parker
	Mr. Fred. Em Scott.
	Mr. Joseph S. Caracciolo.
	Mr. G. David Hatt.
	Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co.
	Mr. José Anjo.
	Mr. Valerius C. E. Gomes.

#### The West Indian Mail Service.

The Chairman raised the question of the West India mail service. He reported the receipt of telegrams from the British Guiana and Trinidad Chambers of Commerce on the subject and summarised the views of Barbados, the Windward Islands and the Leeward Islands, which had been ascertained from the Colonial Office. After a general discussion and exchange of views, it was resolved—

1.—That the Executive of the West India Committee view with deep regret the termination of the contract for the West Indian Transatlantic Mail Service.

2.—That, having regard to the importance of the maintenance of direct mail and passenger communication fortnightly between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and His Majesty's Postmaster-General be requested to endeavour to secure the continuance of such communication.

3.—That, failing success in this direction, the Committee, having taken into consideration the views of the Colonies contributing towards the subsidy for the present service, are prepared to support the substitution of a monthly 13 (thirteen) knot service of steamers to sail at regular dates for one-half of the present subsidy, provided that (1) the intercolonial service is maintained; (2) the itinerary is so arranged as to allow ample time for replying to letters both in the United Kingdom and the Colonies; (3) provisions are inserted in the new contract for the infliction of suitable penalties for un punctuality, and (4) guarantees are given that passenger fares and freight charges shall be kept within reasonable bounds.



A BOARDING-HOUSE IN MONTSERRAT.

From a Photograph by Mr. Jose Am'g.

**The Proposed West Indian Contingent.**

The following correspondence was laid on the table with regard to the proposed West Indian Contingent for Active Service:—

*The West India Committee to the Governors of Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.*

2nd June, 1915.

Sir,

The West India Committee having learnt that the War Office has now expressed its willingness to accept Contingents for the War from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad, my Chairman, Mr. Middleton Campbell, desires me to place this organisation unreservedly at the disposal of your Government for the carrying out of any arrangements in this connection which may be desirable.

It has occurred to him that when the troops from the West Indies arrive in this country, the existence of an organisation on the lines of the Canadian Contingent Association to provide for their well-being, might be desirable and the Committee would be very glad to form a special department with this object in view.

I have the honour, etc.,  
(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,  
Secretary.

Government House,  
19th June, 1915.

*The Governors of Barbados, British Guiana, and Jamaica to the West India Committee.*

Sir,

I beg to thank you for your letter of June 2nd, relative to the assistance which the West India Committee are willing to give to "contingents" which leave the West Indies. As you are doubtless aware, it is not at present proposed to send any "contingent" from the West Indies. You are also, no doubt, aware that many important questions have to be considered before the first draft of recruits can leave the West Indies for England. These questions have been raised by myself and other Governors of West Indian Colonies; the questions relate to, *inter alia*, cost of repatriation, disability pensions, etc., but the Secretary of State has undertaken to settle all of these questions as soon as possible, and, consequently, I hope to write again by next mail concerning the offer which the West India Committee have so kindly made.

I have the honour, etc.,  
I. PROBYN,  
Governor.

Government Secretary's Office,  
Georgetown, Demerara,  
25th June, 1915.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, and to thank the West India Committee for kindly placing their organisation at the disposal of this Government for the carrying out of any arrangements which it may be found desirable to make in connection with the contingent of locally recruited men for service during the War.

No doubt that an arrangement as that referred to in the second paragraph of your letter would be very much appreciated by the men going to England.

I have the honour, etc.,  
E. W. BALL GREEN,  
For Government Secretary.

King's House, Jamaica,  
22nd June, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd June, 1915.

It is true that the War Office has expressed its willingness to accept a Contingent from the West Indies, but as yet I am without the detailed conditions of service which are necessary before the Contingent can be raised.

It is likely, therefore, that there will be some little delay before the Contingent is ready to leave Jamaica for the United Kingdom, and I cannot yet definitely state what the strength will be.

Will you please thank the West India Committee for their very kind offer to form an Association to provide for the well-being of the West India Contingent on its arrival in Great Britain. I need hardly say that such an action will be greatly appreciated, and I will inform you in due course as to the probable date of the arrival of the Contingent in England.

I have the honour, etc.,  
W. H. MANNING.

[Since the above letters were written the proposals have assumed a more definite shape and it is probable that, though Barbados may prefer to send over recruits for the new armies, one or more contingents will be furnished by the other West Indian Colonies—British Guiana perhaps excepted. Full particulars regarding the conditions of enlistment were posted to the West Indies on July 28th.]

A reply to a letter from Mr. Romeo, dated June 17th, with regard to accommodation in the inter-colonial steamers was approved, and it was ordered that the correspondence be sent to the Secretary of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Lieut. Guy Oliver for the gift of four framed photographs of the Kaieteur Fall, British Guiana.

**Particulars regarding Membership.**

By virtue of Rule III. of the West India Committee, the subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

During the year to date 67 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

British Guiana	... 9	Bahamas	... 1
Trinidad	... 9	British Honduras	... 1
Barbados	... 6	Dominica	... 1
Tobago	... 5	Nevis	... 1
Jamaica	... 4	St. Vincent	... 1
Montserrat	... 4	Uganda	... 1
Grenada	... 3	Colombia	... 1
St. Kitts	... 3	Venezuela	... 1
Antigua	... 2	London	... 9
Anguilla	... 1	Country	... 4



## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Passed by the Press Censor for Publication.)

At last the British Government has declared cotton absolute contraband of War. As the new American crop will shortly be due on the market the move is timely. The effect must be severely felt in Germany ultimately. But she looks so far ahead that the change of policy on our part is not likely to check her output of munitions immediately or in the near future. Moreover, she will continue to receive cotton through neutral countries, but the supply, instead of being on a huge scale as hitherto, will be restricted.

If the news which comes from Berlin is correct the situation in Poland must be causing the Grand Duke serious anxiety. The fall of the great fortress of Kovno is of high importance to the enemy's further projects, as the place forms the main pivot of the defence of the Niemen, controlling the crossing of the Königsberg-Vilna railway, and being situated within twenty miles of the junction with that line of the railway from Libau and Schawli. The Germans, too, claim that they have taken 400 guns. Now, hitherto they have found any fortified position they have captured on this front "an empty shell." But this is not the worst. The enemy has also captured Novo Georgievsk, which enables him to shorten his line. General von Hindenburg, strengthened by fresh reinforcements, is advancing on the Brest-Litovsk-Petrograd railway, while General Mackensen and the Arch-Duke are approaching the Kovel-Brest-Litovsk railway and already the strongest fortress of the Polish triangle is attacked. It is, therefore, clear that the enveloping movement of the enemy is gathering momentum, giving a better chance than ever before of surrounding at least a part of the Russian armies, whose destruction is his objective. But the Grand Duke, whose strategy has defeated German hopes for so long, has yet to be heard from.

In the meantime the retirement in Eastern Poland has continued in an orderly manner. Until the past few days our Allies were able to control the advance of the Germans, on the Narew front by a counter offensive, by means of which the forces holding the northern section fell back on their new line of defence with comparative ease; and in the southern front, between the Vistula and the Bug, while withdrawing systematically from their advanced positions between the Lower Bug and the Weiprz. The Russian line was thus gradually straightened out by the retirement of the army which held the Vistula front, while the Germans in the north and in the south were held at arm's length, making progress slowly and at great cost. If our Allies were not able to withdraw the garrisons and remove the guns from Warsaw and Przemysl, it is because the situation is different. Evidently they have used them to delay the advance of the enemy.

This last and most intense attack on Russia is, pro-

bably, political as well as military in motive. The Germans dream of a separate peace with her, though the published terms are merely fantastic. For if she were prepared to accept the overtures she was to receive Galicia and the Dardanelles, whilst Egypt was to be handed to Germany "in order that it might be returned to Turkey." But Russia scorns the idea of peace with the enemy except on terms dictated by the Allies. Then the advance on Riga is no doubt partly designed to impress Sweden, . . . . . and, so Berlin thinks, might be entangled in the meshes of Teutonic diplomacy. Then the attitude of the Balkan States is still uncertain, Rumania in particular actually refusing any longer to allow munitions and war material to pass along her railways to Turkey. A large German force is massed on her border . . . . . As for Bulgaria and Greece, they also have to be impressed with the might of Germany.

### On the Western Front.

It is worthy of note that the whole of the trenches lost round Hooze during the recent enemy attack by means of flame projectors have now been recovered by the British, and in the Argonne, where the Crown Prince has been trying to initiate an offensive at heavy cost in life for weeks past, he is no nearer his objective than he was at the start.

A fleet of thirty-two aeroplanes recently dropped bombs on the munition factories and railway station of Saarbrücken in the Rhineland. The interest of the raid lies not so much in the damage done as in the fact that a fleet of Aviatiks, which endeavoured to intercept the French squadron, was out-manceuvred. For the craft of that type have been so much improved that their speed and climb were believed to be so remarkable as to place their opponents at a disadvantage. But apparently even the confidence begotten in the manipulation of a perfect machine is not sufficient to put the German airmen on a level with the French and British aviator. For the new Aviatik is the last word in aerial invention.

### In the Dardanelles.

With reinforcements the War here seems to be entering on a fresh stage. The Australians and New Zealanders have gained a footing on the Chunuk Bair portion of the Sari Bair, and occupied a crest after storming strongly held positions. The attack was a night one, the advance having been begun under a destroyer's searchlight. The area in this zone has been trebled. North of it a fresh landing has been effected at Suvla Bay, where our troops have not only firmly established themselves, but taken a step forward on their left flank so as to straighten their line. As our position here is well to the north of the inner entrance of the "Narrows," any advance on their part towards the main and only road which connects Turkey in Europe with the Gallipoli Peninsula, would have important consequences.

As Italy has declared war on the Ottoman Empire the operation of forcing the Dardanelles should be expedited. The landing at Suvla Bay would have

been made long ago had the necessary forces been available, and to maintain the position there the Allies have gained, let alone advance, large reinforcements will be required. Up to now Italy has not been able to send any, because, though she was at war with Austria, she was at peace with Turkey.

### On the Italian Front.

At present the front in this theatre of the War is too restricted to allow Italy to take the offensive in full force. Something of the nature of the fighting on it may be gathered from the latest communiqué in which we are told that men roped together scaled and captured snow-clad pinnacles more than 11,000 feet in height. That was in the Ortler range between the upper valleys of the Adda and the Adige. So intrepid are the Italian mountain fighters that their Tyrolese opponents have admitted that only for the year's seasoning they have had of war they would be hard put to it to put up an effective resistance. On the Isonzo front two heights have been captured, which guarded positions on the right bank, one of them is perpetually covered with snow.

### The War on Sea.

The Dardanelles continues to take terrible toll in life both on land and sea. The Admiralty announces that the British transport *Royal Edward* has been sunk by a German submarine in the Ægean with 1,600 men on board, principally reinforcements for the 29th Division, only 600 of whom have been saved. Though troops have been moving daily between England and the Continent, and are being conveyed from the uttermost parts of the earth, up to this deplorable loss only fifty-five soldiers have been drowned, and of them 50 were lost in the Ægean, through a torpedo attack on the *Manitou*. Could finer testimony be forthcoming as to the ceaseless vigilance of the Navy?

The *India*, an auxiliary cruiser, . . . . . was torpedoed by a German submarine. Though 141 lives were saved, eleven have since died from the effects of exposure. . . . . Another loss reported last week was H.M.S. *Lynx*, a powerful new destroyer, which was sunk while reconnoitring in the North Sea. Twenty-six of her crew were saved. She is the second destroyer we have lost in twelve months of war, whereas Germany has lost at least ten. In a duel in the North Sea between the small patrol ship *Ramsey* and the large German auxiliary *Meteor*, the British vessel was sunk, though, fortunately, most of her crew were saved. Subsequently the commander of the *Meteor*, in sighting a British squadron and realising that escape was impossible, ordered the ship's company to take to the boats, when she was blown up.

The White Star liner, *Arabic*, was torpedoed by a German submarine, not far from the spot where the *Lusitania* went down through the same dastardly agency. That all but 39 lives were saved was due, not to German humanity, but to the skill of the cap-

tain, who, in the ten minutes his ship remained afloat, performed a miracle of organisation. There were two Americans amongst the missing. What excuse will the Huns make now? They cannot say the *Arabic* was carrying ammunition as she was out-bound.

Our submarine E13 grounded on August 19th on the Danish island of Saltholm. Regardless of the fact that she was in neutral waters a German destroyer then torpedoed her and fired on her crew after they had abandoned her and were in the water, with machine guns and shrapnel. This dastardly act and breach of neutrality has caused great indignation in Denmark.

### More Zeppelin Raids.

After a lapse of nearly two months a squadron of Zeppelins has visited various East Coast resorts on their separate excursions. In the first raid, though the night was foggy, so much damage was done to one airship that she was towed into Ostend harbour, where, later, she was blown up by bombs dropped on her by French and British airmen, whose base was Dunkirk.

A new form of attack by the Germans has developed on the Cumberland coast, Whitehaven . . . . . having been bombarded by a submarine, though little damage was done. Apparently she was one of a new type, whose size and armament rendered her, on the surface, as powerful as a destroyer.

### Failure of the Enemy's Naval Plans.

In the Baltic the Germans assumed that they would be free from the menace of British submarines, and that the inferior Russian Fleet would prove inefficient. Their calculations have been upset by the exploit of the first in sinking the battleship, *Pommern*, and the success of the second in preventing co-operation between the enemy's naval and military forces in the offensive against Riga. The Gulf is easily defended, only one passage permitting the passage of large ships. The Russians, taking advantage of Nature's aid, skilfully planted mines in the danger zone, stationing a naval force beyond it to prevent any attempt at sweeping them up, while sea-planes circled overhead dropping bombs. Three times the enemy tried to break through the mine barrier with a fleet which consisted of nine battleships, twelve cruisers, and a large number of smaller craft, the size of it showing the importance the Germans attached to the operations. The result was that it was compelled to withdraw.

On August 22nd we were cheered by the news that Germany had sustained a Naval defeat in the Baltic and that her ships, which had endeavoured to force their way into the Gulf of Riga, had been compelled to withdraw with the loss of the *Moltke* (a super-Dreadnought which is believed to have taken part in the Scarborough raid on December 14th, 1914, and was in the North Sea action of January 24th last), besides other units. An attempt to land troops at Pernovin was frustrated, the soldiers being extermin-

ated by the Russians and the large barges which carried them being captured.

The Turks and their German mentors believed that the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, together with the Ottoman Navy, were strong enough to control events in the Black Sea and Sea of Marmora. Here again they are being steadily disillusioned. The naval losses of the Turks have been so great that their sea-power is reduced to an inconsiderable factor. Up to last week they had lost a battleship, torpedoed by B11 under Commander Holbrook, several cruisers, half-a-dozen gunboats and torpedo boats, and ammunition and transport ships. Now they have to deplore the sinking of a second battleship—one of those they bought from Germany—which on venturing into the Sea of Marmora was torpedoed by a British submarine. The only waters which the Germans "command" are the Kiel Canal, the "Narrows," and the Bosphorus.

(To be continued.)

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:*

- Arthur, Colin F. (youngest son of the late Mr. Robert Arthur, of Barbados), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
- Laidman, Private K. E. (of the Jamaica Civil Service), 27th Reserve Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers.
- Becher, Major E. F. (Dominica Estates' Proprietor), on the Staff of the Royal Field Artillery Training School.
- Burdon, Mrs. (wife of Major Hon. J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Barbados), Sister in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. *In France.*
- Cardoza, Laurie (son of Mr. Cardoza, of Metropolitan House, Kingston, Jamaica), Mounted Infantry, Canadian Contingent.
- Clark, W. D. (son of Mr. W. G. Clark, of Clifton, St. Andrew's, Jamaica), King Edward's Horse.
- Cordner, Crighton B. (of Jamaica), Eastern Machine Gun Battery, 2nd Canadian Contingent.
- Eccles, Second Lieut. W. (son of Mr. W. B. Eccles, of Trinidad), the Royal Fusiliers.
- Eckel, Trooper Harold (son of Mr. Edmund Eckel, of Trinidad), 2nd Life Guards.
- Hamilton, Captain J. (of Potosi, Bath, Jamaica), the Buffs (9th East Kent Regiment).
- Hearne, Private M. V. (of Jamaica), 27th Reserve Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers.
- Heron, V. Woodham (of Manchester, Jamaica), the London Scottish.
- Hinkson, Second Lieut. Ernest Kenrick (son of Mr. Ernest Hinkson, of Locust Hall, Barbados), 7th Reserve Battalion, the Dorset Regiment.
- Horn, Second Lieut. David, J.P. (of Kellets, Clarendon, Jamaica), 27th Reserve Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers.
- Kitchener, Second Lieut. H. H. (son of the late Major-General Sir F. W. Kitchener, K.C.B., Governor of Bermuda), attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

- McLaughlin, L. S. (son of Mr. J. M. McLaughlin, of Montego Bay, Jamaica), Princess Patricia's Own Regiment of Canada.
- Nethersole, Mr. John (son of the Administrator-General of Jamaica, and Rhodes Scholar), Prince of Wales' Civil Service Regiment.
- Nicholls, Second Lieut. William Alford (son of Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G.; Member of the Legislative Council and Senior Medical Officer of Dominica), the Royal Fusiliers.
- Orrett, Adolf (son of Mr. Charles Orrett, J.P., of Gayle, St. Mary, Jamaica), 4th Canadian Rifles. *At the Front.*
- Orrett, Frank (son of Mr. Charles Orrett, J.P., of Gayle, St. Mary, Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
- Panton, Captain Henry Bryan (grandson of the late Hon. Edmond Panton, Vice-Chancellor of Jamaica), Royal Marine Light Infantry. *At the Dardanelles.*
- Panton, Lance-Corporal David Forsyth (grandson of the late Hon. Edmond Panton, Vice-Chancellor of Jamaica), the Rifle Brigade.
- Panton, Nurse Helen Elizabeth (grand-daughter of the late Hon. Edmond Panton, Vice-Chancellor of Jamaica), Red Cross in France.
- Rhodes, Major W. W. (Jamaica Estates' Proprietor), Assistant Provost-Marshal, General Staff.
- Shepherd, C. E. (of Cameron & Shepherd, Solicitors, British Guiana), driver of Red Cross Ambulance.
- Sibthorpe, E. B. (organist, Kingston Parish Church, Jamaica) has joined Kitchener's Army.
- Smedmore, Trooper Victor D. (son of the late Mr. W. D. Smedmore, of Kingston, Jamaica), 1st Life Guards.
- Taaffe, H. (of St. Mary, Jamaica) has joined Kitchener's Army.
- Vanier, Dr. Albert E. P. (son of the late John H. F. Vanier, Esq. Official Dutch Translator to the Government of British Guiana, and a Sworn Clerk and Notary Public in the Registrar's Office; and brother of Abraham Vanier, Esq., Solicitor of Berbice, British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Waite, Cyril (of Port Royal, Jamaica), 1st Class Artificer in the Grand Fleet.
- Wallace, Cyril A. (son of Mr. C. A. Wallace, of Montego Bay, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Yearwood, Second Lieut. W. A. (son of Mr. Gordon H. S. Yearwood, and nephew of Mr. H. Graham Yearwood, M.C.P., of Barbados), 14th (Reserve Battalion) Cheshire Regiment.

## Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT RICHARD COOBE BLAGROVE, who, we regret to state, was killed in action on August 12th, was the youngest son of Colonel H. J. Blagrove, C.B., late 13th Hussars, and proprietor of Cardiff Hall Estate in Jamaica. Lieut. Blagrove was educated at Cheltenham College and Sandhurst. He played for his college football team and the Harlequins. He joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in May, 1910, and served with the 2nd Battalion in Bloemfontein, South Africa, and Hongkong, and was employed on special service in the Yangtze Valley.

LIEUT. R. M. FORBES ROSS, of the 3rd King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, who has, we regret to state, been killed in action in France, was a son of the late F. W. Forbes Ross, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., of Cavendish Square and Jamaica, and grandson of Sir David Palmer Ross, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana.

MAJOR C. J. VENABLES, D.S.O., of the Gloucestershire Regiment, who has been killed in action, was the eldest son of the late Addington R. P. Venables, Bishop of Nassau, Bahamas. He was born in 1865, and was educated at Charterhouse and R.M.C., Sandhurst. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1883 and saw service in the South African War, during which he went through the siege of Ladysmith, for which he won the D.S.O. He retired to the Reserve of Officers in 1913, and was recalled to service on the outbreak of the present war. Major

Venables formerly was well known in India, Malta, and Egypt as a good horseman and the rider of many winners. He played in the regimental polo team which won the Infantry Cup in India some 23 years ago.

### Wounded.

Campbell, Lieut. Ryan (son of Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Chairman of the West India Committee), 4th Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment, wounded at the Dardanelles.

Jamieson, A. (of Demerara). Joined the 48th Canadian Highlanders, but is now attached to the 17th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force. Was wounded in the head at Ypres.

Dayson, Lieut. Cyril Werr (nephew of the late Sir Henry K. Dayson), Royal Garrison Artillery.

Messervy, Lieut. R. F., 11th Duke of Wellington's Regiment, attached 5th Manchester Regiment.

### Corrections.

Alleyne, Major C. Forster (son of the late Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, of Barbados, and of Mrs. Alleyne, of 21, Overstrand Mansions, Battersca Park), has been gazetted Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Chandler, Captain William K. (son of Hon. Sir William K. Chandler, LL.D., of Barbados), 43rd Battalion C.B.F. Cameron Highlanders of Canada.

Eye, Mr. E. H. (Assistant Master, Wolmer's School, Jamaica), has enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Kidson; Second Lieut. Malcolm C. (son-in-law of Mr. Dutton Trench, of Montego Bay, Jamaica), 1st Lowland Division, Royal Field Artillery.

Rickford, Lieut. Russell, 9th East Yorks Regiment, now attached 3rd East Yorks, Hedon, Hull.

## WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

### Some Points to be Remembered.

An impression seems to prevail in some quarters in the West Indies that gifts for individual soldiers and sailors are accepted for free delivery at the front and in this country. This is not the case. Postage or carriage has to be prepaid and in most instances the Customs duties on dutiable articles as well. An exception is made in the case of gifts for British prisoners in Germany; but the regulations with regard to these are so numerous and exacting that residents in the West Indies who have relatives or friends in Germany to whom they wish to send gifts, would be best advised to send a remittance to some firm in this country and to ask them to purchase and forward the gift. Much disappointment will thus be avoided, as only goods which are accepted for delivery can then be selected and despatched in approved packages.

With regard to gifts of fruit and preserves for the sick and wounded, the West India Committee will be very glad to continue to receive and forward these to their destination. Their work in this direction will be greatly facilitated if the following points are borne in mind:—

1.—The gifts should be sent through one of the existing bodies which receive and forward them—*e.g.*, the Jamaica Agricultural Society in Jamaica, the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee in Trinidad, and the Dominica Agricultural Society in Dominica.

2.—The fruit and preserves *must be properly packed*. The fruit must be graded and wrapped in suitable paper,

and two varieties should never be packed in the same case. Badly packed fruit—if it ever reaches its destination—only gets the colony from which it comes a bad name.

3.—Particulars must be furnished as to the contents of each case of fruit, and of the net weight of preserves and the gross weight of the cases containing them.

4.—Each case should have an identifying mark or number tallying with a similar mark or number on the Bill of Lading or letter of advice.

5.—Gifts intended for general distribution among troops at the front should be securely packed in cases not exceeding 56 lbs. gross weight, and should contain nothing of a perishable character.

The R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, which arrived at London on August 13th, brought 97 cases of oranges and limes and three of preserves from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, and 43 packages of limes from the Dominica Agricultural Society. Three barrels of limes and three cases of clothing for Lady French's Committee, and one case of clothing for Belgian refugees came from various donors in Grenada. The S.S. *Coronado*, which reached Avonmouth on August 15th, brought 40 cases of oranges and grape-fruit, 15 cases of banana figs, 1 cask of lime-juice and 4 cases of various gifts from the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Our friends in the West Indies are again indebted to Mr. W. Speed, the Secretary of the West India Association, of Liverpool, who again undertook the arrangements for clearing the consignments which arrived at that port.

The nine barrels of limes forwarded by Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, the Editor of *The West Indian*, from Grenada, were the gifts of Mr. A. W. Duncan, of Boulogne Estate, and Mr. F. Kent, of Mount Rich Estate, in that Island.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### IX.—SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BARBADOS.

It was not to be expected that the replies to the enquiries made by the West India Committee as to the areas available for cane sugar production within the Empire would indicate the possibility of an extension of the sugar industry of Barbados, that island already being cultivated to the fullest extent. The Committee's circular letter was, however, sent to all tropical colonies, and the following reply from the Governor of Barbados is published for information:—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados.  
6th November, 1914.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 389, dated October 6th last, informing His Excellency that in view of the high prices which consumers of sugar in England are now paying as a result of their dependence on the Continent of Europe, and especially on Germany and Austria, for the bulk of their supplies of sugar in the past, the question of extending Great Britain's sources of supply within the Empire is bound shortly to be raised, and asking what room there is for the expansion of the sugar industry in Barbados. Further, (1) what is the actual area suitable for sugar cane cultivation, and (2) what is the approximate amount of sugar which the Colony would be capable of producing with its existing labour supply?

2. In reply, I have been directed by His Excellency to inform you that there is practically no land, not under cultivation at present, available for expanding the sugar industry, nor, in view of the sugar cane fungoid diseases existing in the Colony, would it be advisable to discontinue what crop rotation there is existing at present.

3. With regard to the actual area suitable and available for cultivation, I may state that there is no method existing for obtaining reliable statistics from the owners of land as to the areas under the different crops, so it is impossible to state accurately what area is under sugar canes. It is, however, usually computed that of the 106,470 acres of which the Island is comprised, about 64,000 acres are cultivable, the remaining 42,470 acres being in pastures, roads, sites of towns, etc. Of the cultivable land it is estimated that about 30,000 acres are grown in sugar canes annually, the remaining 34,000 acres being under cotton, sweet potatoes, Indian corn, and other subsidiary crops, and in preparation for growing sugar canes of the following year. In this 34,000 acres is included the land owned by the 13,200 peasants who are possessed of five acres of land and under.

4. With regard to what is the approximate amount of sugar which the Colony is capable of producing with its existing labour supply, it may be stated that for many years the average annual crop was about 51,000 tons; recently, however, owing to the manufacture of "Fancy" Molasses direct from the sugar cane, the output of sugar is considerably less, and for the past four years has amounted to 25,068 tons of sugar per annum and 60,985 puncheons of "Fancy" Molasses, to which may be added 20,685 puncheons of "Choice" Molasses.

5. As there is no more land available it is not likely that the total output of sugar and molasses can be increased.

I have the honour, etc.,

J. A. BURDON,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary of the West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

## THE HURRICANE SEASON

Private advices were received on August 13th of a hurricane having visited Jamaica on the preceding night and on the 16th the following telegram from the Governor of Jamaica to the Colonial Office, received on August 13th, was published:—

Regret to inform you that a severe hurricane struck island last night. Owing to breakdown of telegraphic communication I am unable to get much information as to damage done, but I fear that it has been very serious to banana crop throughout the island. Kingston and neighbourhood have not suffered much damage. Maximum velocity of wind in Kingston fifty miles per hour. The centre of the storm appears to have passed along the northern side of the island from east to west. Will telegraph details directly received.

Next day this was supplemented by the publication of a further message in the following terms:—

In view of interruption of communications, full details of hurricane are not yet available. It would appear that actual centre of storm did not strike the island, but that it passed about fifty miles to the north, causing very heavy sea and high winds on the north coast of the island. As far as information goes, the heavy seas have greatly damaged wharves and buildings on the north coast, breaching the railway line for 200 yards in one place. So far the loss of seven lives only is reported from the eastern part of the north coast, but no communication has yet been possible with the western portion of the coast, except from St. Ann's Bay, where considerable damage has been done by heavy seas, and Montego Bay, where little damage to buildings is reported. This is probably the case in every port on the western portion of the north coast. Though

bananas appear to have been blown down in most districts, coconuts do not appear to have suffered, and this applies to most of the interior of the island as well as to the coast.

Later advices received by private firms indicate that the damage was practically confined to bananas and that coco-nut palms escaped. Bananas suffered severely, and Messrs. Elder & Pyffes have received a cablegram from the United Fruit Company to the effect that shipments which recently averaged 350,000 bunches a week will be reduced to 50,000 for many weeks to come.

### Some Damage in Dominica.

Dominica has also been visited by a gale of hurricane force. Messrs. L. Rose & Co received a cable on August 14th to this effect, and Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls has informed Messrs. Boddington & Co. that cultivation on St. Arment Estate has suffered. The Colonial Office have, however, received no cablegram from the Acting-Governor or the Administrator on the subject.

## CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

### A Mystery of '59 Solved.

After reading Mr. Cecil Clementi's admirable articles on the Chinese in British Guiana in the *Demerara Argosy*, to which it is proposed to make extended reference in the near future, it occurred to the writer to ferret out the papers among the records of the West India Committee dealing with Chinese Immigration, for the inception of which they were responsible. Among them he came across a letter from Captain Patrick Robb, commander of the *Royal George*, which should be of interest, especially to members of the medical profession. In this letter, which is dated April 9th, 1859, Captain Robb describes a mysterious disease which broke out among the Chinamen whom he was carrying to Georgetown, Demerara, causing great mortality. Neither the ship's doctors nor the medical officers at Georgetown were able to diagnose the complaint. The letter runs as follows:—

Ship *Royal George*.

Messrs. Josias Booker & Co.

GENTLEMEN,—Your kind favour of the 10th March came duly to hand and I have read its contents. I wrote you on my leaving the Cape, which no doubt you have received long ere this. Messrs. Hamilton Rose & Co. would, I am quite sure, furnish you with a list of any disbursements there, which are quite correct; after leaving the Cape we had a very long track of light winds, and did not cross the Equator until the 21st March in long. 34° west, the winds still continued light but generally favourable for us. I am very sorry to say, shortly after leaving the Cape a disease broke out among the Chinamen, which carried off a great many of them, they died four and five a day for a time. The ship's doctors called it dropsy. Some have it in the head, others in the chest, and some swell all over, others drop down dead without the slightest appearance of anything being wrong beyond a throbbing of the heart; others of them linger for weeks. Everything that could be thought of was done to prevent its spreading, but nothing appeared to stop it. Both doctors attributed it at first to the rice. I immediately changed their food, as far as lay in my power, by using the ship's stores and my own, as far as they would go, viz., biscuit, preserved beef, do. potatoes, but I

could not see myself there was any mitigation of the disease, although the doctors were of a different opinion; very singular the disease attacked the stoutest of the men most, and more especially the opium smokers. One time the doctors imagined it to be the change of water, but as it did not affect the ship's company I could not think it had anything to do with it. We gave them China water again, but still the disease increased. We exercised them by making them rub their legs and bodies wash their bodies, tear oakum, turning the foul air pump, ran them about between decks and all such like exercise as would tend to keep their minds employed, but it was hard to get them to do it even by paying them. Dysentery or diarrhoea we had only one or two cases, which were the only diseases we were afraid of on leaving China.

In all, up to our arrival here, we lost 49 and two more died the night we came to anchor, and that was after the visit had been passed, and 12 more have died in the hospital up to the present date, all of the same disease, and as yet none of the hospital doctors can give a reason for the disease; some say one thing and some another. The Governor says it is too much food and want of ventilation, and next day has it something else.

I am afraid that myself and doctor and one of my crew have got a slight touch of the disease, as it was only yesterday I found it out. I cannot tell, but it leaves an impression when touched.

N.B.—There are two ventilators, most efficient, on the deck of the ship *Royal George*, one fore and one aft, of large size, besides a very powerful ventilating machine on board for pumping out the foul air and admitting the pure air.

In view of the rapid progress in the study and knowledge of tropical disease in recent years it seemed probable that the London School of Tropical Medicine would be able to solve the question as to the nature of the trouble, and Captain Robb's letter was accordingly submitted to Mr. P. Michelli, C.M.G., Secretary of the School. He writes in reply: "I have had an opportunity of discussing with Dr. F. M. Sandwith, our Senior Physician, the subject of the epidemic which broke out on the *Royal George* in 1859. Dr. Sandwith has considered this matter with some of his colleagues, and I have been authorised to say that, so far as can be judged from the description given by a man not in the medical profession, the symptoms of the disease from which the men died are those of Beri Beri, and no other disease. I hope this information may be of some use to you. I presume that there is no record of these cases in the hospital at Demerara—it would be very interesting to get notes if they exist."

The Empire Institute is the name of a new organisation just founded at Barbados with the object of securing the development of the young people of the island, physically, morally and intellectually. The Institute has purchased three acres of land in the healthy suburb known as Bank Hall, and hope to erect upon it a suitable building. Donations may be sent to Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G., the Patron at Coverley, Christchurch, Barbados, or to Mr. C. A. Braithwaite, the Honorary Secretary.

A LIST of publications to be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms will be forwarded post free upon request.

## THE PREVENTION OF INSECT PESTS.

Mr. H. W. B. Moore, who has been investigating insect pests in British Guiana on behalf of Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. and Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., has issued a report in which he makes the satisfactory announcement that the large moth-borer (*Casnia licus*) may now be considered as under control on most estates, but he adds that even where this is so it must be very clearly understood that it cannot be left alone. Grubs and moths will still have to be systematically and persistently destroyed, for control does not mean elimination.

"The work against the small moth-borers is so hampered by lack of labour that progress is yet very slow. Improvement there is, but it is not striking from one year to another. Such rapid breeding forms require a large amount of labour, especially at the year-end grinding. As this seems impossible as things are, striking improvement cannot be expected such as has been the case on most estates, say, with the slower breeding *Casnia*, or even with wood-ants, which, although possessed of rapid breeding powers, are, nevertheless, so easily dealt with by the employment of a few hands to destroy the nests. It is very much to be regretted that efforts at controlling the small moth-borers suffer so from want of labour, as these are by far the most destructive of all pests. I often fancy, however, that the amount of damage they do is insufficiently realised.

"The small black hard-back (*Dyscinetus bidentatus*) must now be considered as a major pest, and as one urgently requiring attention. It will almost certainly prove somewhat difficult to deal with. At present not much control appears to be exercised over it by its natural enemies, among which is included *Tiphia parallela*, that parasitizes, and is believed to control, the brown hard-back in Barbados. It is the adult which is damaging, the larva being a scavenger, feeding on decayed vegetable matter mixed with earth.

"Frog-hopper is a pest that might easily assume alarming proportions if it be not carefully watched, as it exists on grasses throughout the coast-lands, especially in abandoned cane-fields. Indeed, it is already of sufficient note on one estate to demand some attention being bestowed upon it. Mr. Quelch discovered it to be preyed upon by *Salpingogaster nigra*, the fly that attacks the frog-hopper cane-pest in Trinidad. Abandoned fields rampant with grasses should not be tolerated on any estate, as they are simply breeding grounds for a variety of pests. They should be kept under water or provisions until again required for cane. It must be remembered that practically all of our cane-pests have originated from grasses.

"Insect control work now occupies so important a place in the economy of an estate that it was recommended by Mr. Quelch that each estate should have a special overseer or other intelligent man living on the spot to supervise and direct the work.

He would have plenty to do in attending to the egg-clusters, returning parasites to fields, recording the number of grubs, moths, wood-ant nests, etc., keeping a look-out for new pests or any threatening appearance of old well-known forms, and making up the pay-lists of the different gangs. On my visits to the estates I could check the purely entomological side of his work, and advise where necessary. The carrying out of such a recommendation would make for better and increased work being obtained from the small amount of labour available."

Some idea of the extent of the work controlled by Mr. Moore may be gauged from the fact that during 1914 503,680 moths and 1,551,000 grubs of the large moth-borer, and 20,888,042 caterpillars of the small moth-borer were destroyed on seventeen estates. The bag of egg-clusters of the last-named pest totalled 501,227. The two firms concerned are to be congratulated upon their enterprise in having furnished the ways and means for a most valuable enquiry.

### ARTESIAN WELLS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The following memorandum, signed by Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Director of Science and Agriculture, and Mr. E. C. Buck, Director of Public Works, has been forwarded to us by permission of the Governor of British Guiana, with the request that it may be published:—

Reference was made in your impression of 1st June last to the artesian wells in British Guiana and the comprehensive water scheme by artesian sources for the supply of the City of Georgetown. There are one or two very important points that require correcting, and other statements that should be explained.

Dealing first with the D'Urban Park Well, the well was purely an experimental one and was very defective, in that it was completed without any strainers to prevent the ingress of sand and mud, whilst the casing was not carried down to bed-rock. The estimated flow of 1,250,000 gallons was entirely erroneous, as was proved by tests carried out by the Hon. E. C. Buck, Director of Public Works, and Professor Harrison, whose reports almost exactly coincided.

The average actual output of the well was approximately 205,000 gallons per diem, but the well became plugged or partly so by sand and mud, and its yield then fell off to approximately 92,000 gallons, at which rate it was flowing when the water in the Bonded Warehouse well was struck. The plugging was later partly cleared and a 6-inch perforated casing inserted; after this was done the flow was at the rate of 120,000 gallons per diem at 6 feet 6 inches above the ground-level. A few weeks later it was flowing at 116,000 gallons per diem at a head of 11 feet from the ground level, whilst in June of this year, sixteen months after it was cleared, it was yielding 118,000 gallons at a level of 10 feet from the ground. Allowing for the difference in level of the outflows the yield in place of falling off owing to the completion of the Bonded Warehouse well has considerably increased, and this entirely contradicts the assumption that the drilling of the second well had adversely affected the first well.

The idea of drilling a series of wells round Georgetown was not induced in any way by the probability of the underground storage being at its maximum near Georgetown, as results do not tend to show such concentration, but rather that the maximum supply exists at several

miles to the south-east of Georgetown. The supply in and around Georgetown was, however, considered sufficient, and in order to save as much connecting main as possible the wells were designed on suitable spots in the immediate neighbourhood of Georgetown. The recent borings at New Amsterdam, Lichtfield, Nabacris, Plaisance, and Diamond, have revealed a vast underground reservoir of pure water overlying the granitic bed-rock.

To the south-east of Georgetown the sand-beds thicken out into several aquifers varying from 50 to 110 feet in thickness, which occur at varying depths below 560 feet, and all these beds or layers yield supplies of pure artesian water in abundance.

The evidence obtained by artesian wells and geological enquiries in British Guiana and in Surinam proves that at depths from 560 to 600 feet there exists a vast area of artesian water of high purity, the north-western and south-eastern extremes of the area being near Santa Rosa on the Moruca river and Albina on the eastern boundary of Surinam. The breadth of the area varies greatly, being widest in Berbice and Nickerie, the boring in the former at New Amsterdam having proved the existence of a series of at least six aquifers in coarse-textured sand-beds, varying in thickness from 40 to 130 feet, the total proved thickness of artesian water-bearing strata being over 500 feet.

With proper screens in the wells, inserted into the sand-beds, the flow of sand is arrested, the beds simply forming an excellent filtering medium and no cavities will be formed round the bottoms of the wells.

The supply is without doubt so great and the porosity of the sands such, that wells placed even closer than 600 feet apart, as proposed in the new scheme, will not adversely affect one another.

The wells have been so designed that they will run in line at right angles to the direction of dip of the bed-rock, and will therefore tend to tap a large cross-sectional area of reservoir, or, in plainer words, they have been placed across the stream—and not in line with it.

The observations relative to the diminishing yield of artesian wells apply with very little or no force in British Guiana—the granitic bed-rock underlying the whole of the water-bearing sands—so that borings could in no way affect the yield from one well to another, unless placed very close indeed. Most, if not all, the wells that have been known to fail in supply have been pumped wells sunk relatively close together in restricted artesian areas, and the diminution has been caused by the lowering of the head of water in the wells by heavy and continuous pumping.

In the scheme proposed for Georgetown, an artificial head of an additional 12 feet is being obtained by tapping with wells 12 feet below the surface of the ground, but as the water will be led to a sump at the Pumping House, the advantage will only be obtained when the demand for water exceeds the output from the wells at ground-level, so that a minimum of water will only be taken from the wells, but that automatically as the demand increases and the head is lowered in the sump, so the head on the wells will be increased accordingly, with a naturally increased flow to meet the fresh demand.

When the wells are not being drawn upon the water will rise to its static head in the sump at the Water Works, probably 20 feet above ground-level. This would be only in the case of a breakdown of the pumping plant, or at night when very little water was required. By the foregoing arrangement the automatic provision of water from zero to a maximum is assured without waste of any sort. The question of laying the mains on the first inspection does appear a difficult problem, but with a proper ditching machine and powerful pumps there should be no trouble nor undue delay.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Seard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

## THE UBIQUITOUS MONGOOSE.

The danger of upsetting the balance of nature has never been more clearly demonstrated than by the introduction of the Mongoose into the West Indies in the 'seventies of last century. The Mongoose, or *Herpestes griseus*, was imported after a series of ineffective experiments with ferrets, cats, ants, and even toads, with the object of exterminating the rats which were ravaging the cane fields. They did this most effectively, and all would have been well if they had stopped at that. But having destroyed the rats, they turned their attention to poultry and birds. Then lizards fell a prey to their voracious appetites, with the result that the insects increased to an alarming extent. Matters had become so serious in Jamaica—less than twenty years after Mr. W. Bancroft Espeut introduced into the island four male and five female mongooses—that the Government was compelled to appoint a Commission to investigate the pest, for that is what the mongoose (like the rabbit in Australia) had become. Abundant evidence was taken, and the Commissioners found that, though the mongoose had conferred great benefits on sugar and coffee estates by destroying rats, it destroyed "young pigs, kids, lambs, newly-dropped calves, puppies, kittens, also the young of the coney, poultry of all kinds, game such as partridges, quails, guinea-fowl, snipe, lapwing, ground-doves, young John Crows, and all birds which rest on or near the ground, and their eggs, as well as snakes, ground-lizards, frogs, turtle and turtles' eggs, land-crabs, and other useful creatures. We have evidence to show that the mongoose eats ripe bananas, pines, young corn, Avocado pears, sweet potatoes, cacao, yams, peas, and certain fruits, and that he is suspected of sucking the sugar canes, also that he will eat meat and salt provision, and can catch fish; in short, that he is, or has become, omnivorous."

Twenty years later—in 1910—Dr. Lucius Nicholls told somewhat the same tale as regards St. Lucia, into which island the mongoose had been introduced from Barbados to combat the Fer de Lance snake, and now we have an outcry from Trinidad. A correspondent in that island writes: "The mongoose pest is becoming really serious. It is worse now than ever. Formerly the Government gave a substantial reward for each body or tail produced, but no substantial reduction resulted. Some enterprising peasants were suspected of making a successful minor industry by breeding the mongoose, and in one Ward it was established that an innocent Warden had paid for the same tails over and over again. They were not pleasant things to have about the premises, and as soon as bought would be buried, only to be dug up and sold again in the morning. Another amusing if expensive thing occurred in this connection. In two adjoining Wards an experiment was tried. At one they gave a flat rate—I think it was 3s. each—male or female. At another the price was 4s. for the female

and 2s. for the male. After some time it dawned on the official purchasers that there was a great preponderance of females in the latter Ward. The simple peasant had again proved one too many for the authorities. Inquiry proved that all the females caught in both Wards were sold in the one where the price was raised, and all the males *vice-versa*. Then the Government got tired of it, and no further reward was given. The Agricultural Society is now doing its best to eradicate the evil, and has offered a reward of \$25 for the best trap for catching mongoose that can be sold at a moderate price."

## "THE HAND-IN-HAND."

### A Prosperous British Guiana Concern.

The Directors of the Hand-in-Hand Mutual Guarantee Fire Insurance Company of British Guiana, which has just celebrated its jubilee, have every reason to be proud of the history of that undertaking. Founded on July 5th, 1865, at a meeting convened by Mr. George L. Davson, Mr. W. Knox and Mr. Fred Winter—all names to conjure with—it forms a notable example of the success which attends commercial enterprise in British Guiana when it is conducted on sound and business-like lines.

The company was the successor of the Georgetown Hand-in-Hand, established in 1843 "to assure each other's houses to the extent of two-thirds of their appraised value from losses by fire, out of a capital composed exclusively of the premiums of assurance on their own property."

Those present at the inaugural meeting of the new company were Dr. E. A. Manget (Surgeon-General), G. L. Davson, E. G. Barr, W. Knox, A. Hunter, Dr. Jno. Scott, A. A. Silva, G. P. Watson, C. H. Gilbert, R. D. Stewart, Jno. Darrell, Jno. Jones, Jnr., Jos. Klien, A. A. D'Andrade, J. W. Davson, Jno. Gordon, C. McArthur, W. Begg, Jno. McConnell, H. Clementson, Jno. Drysdale, S. F. Nurse, Wm. Roberts, H. S. Bascom, Jno. S. Hill, C. Murray, F. Teixeira, M. G. Pequeno and M. Bugle, a truly representative gathering!

The new Company was incorporated by Ordinance on October 4th, 1865 (No. 18, 1865), for the successful passing of which Governor Francis Hinks was largely responsible and operations were begun a fortnight later. Mr. E. G. Barr was elected the first Chairman, and the directors were Sir W. H. Holmes, Kt. (Provost Marshal), Dr. E. A. Manget, Messrs. G. L. Davson, A. Hunter, W. Knox, F. Winter, E. G. Barr, A. O. Perot, J. S. Hill, Hon. H. Clementson, A. C. MacCalman and J. W. Davson.

The operations of the Company were attended with good fortune from the very start, for it was not until 1867 that it was called upon to meet its first claim, which resulted from a fire at Mr. M. G. Pequeno's house in Camp Street. From that date down to June 30th last the total claims paid amount



to \$1,047,155.92, the highest total in any single year being in 1913-14, when \$168,193.23 were paid out after the serious Werk-en-Rust conflagration, which was traced to an explosion of fireworks in a shop in Lombard Street.

One of the main objects in the formation of the Company was to provide cheap insurance for the inhabitants of the Colony, and that this has been achieved, and a large amount of money retained in the Colony which would otherwise have gone to swell the profits of English Insurance Companies, will be evident from the following figures which are published in a pamphlet just published by the Company:—

Premiums received since Incorporation	\$7,085,462.65
Returned to Insured in Scrip or Cash	\$4,232,821.24
Dividends paid to Scrip Holders	\$3,404,898.27
Total Claims paid	\$1,047,155.92

The average net return to Policy Holders has been no less than 66.85 per cent. of Premiums.

### THE HISTORIC FORTS OF TOBAGO.

BY G. DAVID HATT.

Of the twenty-two fortifications in Tobago in the days when the island was in the possession of the French, Fort King George, the last of them all to be constructed, is the principal. It stands on a conical eminence above Scarborough, about 425 feet above the level of the sea, a mile from the Court House, and reached by a good enough carriage road, which, though steep, takes one almost to the summit. From many miles round in every direction, the eye rests upon this fort, and the view from it is extensive and grand. In the days when it was the chief military station in the island it was described as: "Small but compact, containing good barracks, an hospital, magazines, stores, and seven large iron tanks supplied by rain water, of which they always contain a sufficient quantity for the use of the garrison, excepting in seasons of great drought." Of the cannon which it mounted, the brass ones can now be seen at the military barracks at St. James, Port of Spain, Trinidad, while some of its water tanks are in private residences in and around Scarborough. Many of the old military residences have been recently repaired, and are now occupied by His Honour the Commissioner, the Doctor, telegraph operators, and flag and light-house keepers. Lack of forethought prevented others from being converted into residences for the District Road Officer and the Dispenser-Steward of the Colonial Hospital, and new houses were built for them. This short-sighted policy is not to be continued, however, as the Royal Gaol, formerly the military hospital, is now under repair with a view to its tenancy. The hospital for patients other than those suffering from yaws is also one of the converted military barracks. It is the tallest building in the island, and commands the town and the official residences. It would appear well situated for disseminating infectious and contagious diseases, but fortunately the majority of deaths that

occur in the island are mainly of infants up to five years old, due in part to insufficient medical aid and cheap medicines within reasonable distance of home, and to dysentery due to the want of wholesome drinking-water in those districts where there are no rivers. Although twelve rivers flow through the seven parishes into which the island is divided, yet none of them water the Sandy Point district to leeward, or the important settlement of Moriah to the north. The distance from Scarborough to Milford, in the doctorless and waterless area, exceeds ten miles, and the inhabitants number about 4,000.

In the absence of reliable data, one is left to conclude that Fort King George was erected between the years 1768 and 1769, as it was during that period that Scarborough was considered a more suitable place to be the capital of the island than Georgetown, in Barbados Bay (now known as Studley Park), and the sittings of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly were thereto transferred. Scarborough was, however, not represented in the House until fifteen years afterwards—in 1784—when the island was in the possession of the French. Fort King George had not to do battle with the American squadron in 1778, consisting of two full-rigged ships, three brigs, and a schooner, fitted out by the American States specially for the conquest of Tobago, as this attempt was completely foiled, not by the Germans, but by H.M.S. *Yarmouth*, 60 guns, Captain Vincent, to windward of Barbados. It did, however, take part in the war of 1781, which resulted in a victory for the French. In 1793, when the position was reversed, and again in 1803, when on the 30th June, after a contest between French and English naval and military forces, the island passed to the British Crown for good—just 112 years ago on 30th June last.

To show how far ahead the French were to the British in some aspects of their colonising scheme even so long ago as 1802, and which the latter would do well to consider even at this belated hour, he it remembered that Tobago took part in the decision of the question "Whether Napoleon should be elected Consul for life?" The people of Tobago were then considered citizens of France, and not as subjects. The last French commander of Fort King George was General Berthier. In 1854 the troops composing the garrison were withdrawn, and when, twenty-two years after—in 1876—detachments of the First and Second West India Regiments were stationed in the island in consequence of the riots in the Windward district, these troops were quartered in what is now the Police Barracks.

(To be continued.)

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

THE ordeal of National Registration to which all of us who are over 15 and under 65 years of age have just been subjected, was not very alarming. To those in the community who wrestled with the intricacies of the Insurance papers and the still more notorious Form IV., the compilation of the replies to the Government's latest enquiries was mere child's play. A few days before Sunday, August 15th—the official registration day—a band of voluntary enumerators left at our doors the requisite forms, which they subsequently collected. On these forms we had to state our age, employment, the names and addresses of our employers (if any), the work we are capable of doing, and so on, the object being, of course, to form a complete record of the capabilities of every individual in the Kingdom. The forms for males were grey and those for women white; but it is stated that the enumerators are to transcribe the names of men of fighting age on to pink forms. The Register may or may not be the precursor of some form of conscription.

THE outbreak of War found Great Britain hopelessly unprepared, except as far as her Navy was concerned, to face the great struggle in which she is now involved. It is to be hoped that she will not be equally unprepared to face the many problems which must arise after the cessation of hostilities. In this direction it is refreshing to learn that the problem of emigration is already receiving attention. It seems practically certain that thousands of men who have left the office stool, so to speak, to don khaki will not be disposed to resume a humdrum City life.

To a deputation of the Royal Colonial Institute, which waited on the Colonial Secretary and the President of the Board of Agriculture on August 19th to advocate co-operation between the Government and the Dominions for the guidance of emigrants, Mr. Bonar Law said that we at home were torn in two ways. We certainly desired to see the British Empire expand and to have its fertile lands filled by people of our own race, but on the other hand he did not think that any of us would look with pleasure at the prospect of very large numbers of men who were now fighting for us, men who were of the very best of our population, suddenly leaving the country.

CONTINUING, he said that the problem we had to face was first of all to try to help these soldiers to find a means of employment which suited them best, and Lord Selborne had already appointed a Committee to deal with the employment of ex-soldiers on the land at home. The War, he said, was resulting in high prices for the commodities purchased from the Colonies, so that the Colonies must prosper, and he thought it was going to bring Canada a great deal of development and increased capital, and

it was almost certain that there would be a great demand for people there at the end of the War.

THE National Service League, an Organisation with which Lord Roberts was closely identified in his closing years, is organising a movement in the direction of securing that every fit man shall be made available for our fighting forces or for home work to help them. Viscount Milner, the Chairman of the Council of the League has pointed out in the manifesto that to obtain success in the present War we must put forth our whole strength by establishing universal and compulsory military service for such period as the War may last. The new movement is under the wing of the Harmsworth press.

EARL GREY'S scheme for the erection of a Dominions Building and Market on the County Council's vacant site abutting on Aldwych and the Strand is temporarily in abeyance. Meanwhile the substantial Australian Commonwealth building, the foundation stone of which was laid by the King as recently as last year, is rapidly nearing completion, whilst the Government Agency of British Columbia will shortly be moving into a palatial building which now occupies the site of the old Continental Hotel in Regent Street. To prevent the option of the Aldwych site from expiring a proposal is on foot for holding a great Imperial Exhibition there immediately after the War.

RETRENCHMENT continues to be the order of the day, and on August 18th the Retrenchment Committee, set up by the Government, inaugurated its sittings at the Treasury under the chairmanship of no less a person than the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself. The first Government Department to come under scrutiny was the Post Office and in view of Lord Middleton's recent statement that the annual loss on telegraphs alone was £1,250,000, an increase in the fee for Inland telegrams is quite on the cards. Presumably mail subsidies will also come under the eagle eye of the Committee, and it is not too much to hope that they will have something to say about the salaries which our Members of Parliament so generously voted to themselves. The Committee appreciating, no doubt, that time gained is money saved, is working at a great pace and has already polished off three departments in as many days.

LIEUTENANT EDWARD ALAN WILEY HUGHES, of the Royal Fusiliers, who was wounded in the early days of the War, was married on August 4th at Wimbledon Parish Church to Hannah Robertson Lang, daughter of Mr. Alexander Lang, C.M.G., and Mrs. Lang, of The Grange, Wimbledon. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. George Hughes, of Fieldhead, Wimbledon, who has more friends in the West Indies, where he lived for some years, than most other residents in this country. Mr. Lang will be known to many in the West Indies from his connection with the Bank of Montreal.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

GENERAL CIPRIANO CASTRO, ex-President of Venezuela, who has been spending some months in Trinidad, left that island on July 15th for St. Thomas en route for Porto Rico.

THE Combined Court of British Guiana has, we learn by cable, imposed export war taxes of 1 cent per gallon on Rum, 3½ cents on Rice, and 2 cents additional on Bankers cheques.

MRS. BURDON, the wife of the Colonial Secretary of Barbados, who, as recorded in another column, is now at the front as a Sister in Queen Alexandra's Corps, was trained as a nurse at St. George's Hospital, London.

DR. FRANK MAHABIR, the first native Indian in Trinidad to qualify as a doctor, received a cordial welcome from a representative gathering of East Indians at a dinner at the Oriental Hall, San Fernando, on July 10th, the Hon. George Fitzpatrick, M.L.C., presiding.

Mr. F. H. S. Warnford, son of Mr. R. Warnford, of St. Kitts, and a kinsman of the late Lieut. Warnford the aviator, who recently took his B.Sc. at McGill University, has been awarded a Bursary in England. He has proceeded to Cambridge to assist Professor Pope, who is investigating the manufacture of synthetic dyes.

MR. EDMUND ECKEL, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, has no fewer than four sons serving their King and country. Two hold commissions (in the Dorsetshire and Duke of Cornwall's Regiments respectively), while two are troopers in the 2nd Life Guards, in which crack regiment quite a number of Trinidadians enlisted early in the War.

MESSRS. R. S. GAMBLE & SON, of Kingston, have been appointed Agents in Jamaica to the Ocean Steamship Company and the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company, to whose new service through the Panama Canal *via* Jamaica reference was made in last CIRCULAR. The rates to Kingston are, we are informed, in accordance with those fixed by the West Indian Conference.

OUR American contemporary the *India-Rubber World* suggests that, while rubber manufacturers in the United States are keeping their pledge not to sell rubber in its crude or manufactured form to any of England's enemies or to neutral countries, except by way of the United Kingdom, the promise that manufactured or partly manufactured rubber goods shall not be sold to any person unless the makers are satisfied that the goods are not to be exported or resold to any European countries except those of the Allies, is not so strictly observed. Many motor cars are, it appears, being shipped from New

York to Scandinavian and Mediterranean ports fully equipped with rubber tyres.

As we go to press we have received for publication the following further cablegram from the Governor of Jamaica regarding the recent hurricane:—

Reports have now been received from all parts of the island as to hurricane damage. From 80 to 90 per cent. of bananas have been blown down in most places, although the percentage is less in a few places. It is estimated that the exports of bananas will be very small for the ensuing nine months. Coco-nuts and cacao have only suffered trifling damage. Damage to buildings by force of wind has only been slight. High seas, however, have done much damage at all ports and to the wharves and buildings on the north coast, especially at Port Maria. The railway line from Bull Bay to Port Antonio has been badly damaged, and will take six weeks to repair. Except on the coast, damage to roads is not serious. Where roads are actually on the coast the damage by the sea on the northern side has been heavy. Reported loss of life at present to—in most cases children who were drowned by the inroad of the sea.

UNSCRUPULOUS people in Germany are, according to the *Lancet*, exploiting good-natured folk who send food and delicacies to their relatives and friends in the trenches. Among the novelties which they are "pushing" is so-called "solid alcohol." This consists of cubes of gelatine, to which brandy and sugar have been added. Hot water has to be poured on these cubes, whereupon one obtains a sweetish fluid, weak in alcohol, and possessing a rather disagreeable flavour of glue. Unfortunately—or fortunately—there is a tendency for the alcohol to evaporate, so that the supposedly invigorating "solid brandy," never at any time a representative product, becomes weaker and weaker in alcoholic strength. Equally outrageous has been the traffic in "substitutes" for the much-desired alcoholic beverages—often nothing more than a cube of sugar coloured red with dyes admixed with citric or tartaric acid. Concoctions of coffee and cocoa have likewise been dispensed in tablet form of most inferior quality at exorbitant prices. One pound of a favoured brand, doubtless wrapped in covers with ennobling messages to the heroes of the War, sold at the rate of 12s. (12 marks) per pound!

### OUR ILLUSTRATION.

#### A Boarding House in Montserrat.

Though few of the smaller islands in the West Indies have "hotels," most of them have boarding-houses. Some of these are good and others exceedingly bad. Among the former may be included Coco-nut Hill House, in Montserrat, an illustration of which, from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo, is given on another page in the present issue. In this picturesque building Mr. Dudley Johnson dispenses hospitality to paying guests, who are usually charmed by the surroundings. The house stands amid coco-nut palms—whence its name—on a hill overlooking the sea, about five minutes walk from Plymouth, the capital of the West Indian "Emerald Island."

## NATURE NOTES.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Mr. W. L. Owen has been studying the question of the comparative values of various germicides used in sugar factories, and his conclusions are published in a recent *Louisiana Station Bulletin*. Where a disinfectant is required for syrup tanks, or for the purpose of removing micro-organisms causing the deterioration in sugars, formaldehyde was found to be superior to calcium hypochlorite, ammonium fluoride, sodium fluoride, milk of lime, bisulphite of lime and bisulphite of soda.

\* \* \*

In cases, however, where the efficiency of the germicide involves any great penetrating power, as, for example, when germs have to be removed, Mr. Owen considers chloride of lime is a more economical germicide than formaldehyde. Since the efficiency of all germicides is greater at elevated temperatures, he lays stress on the advisability of applying them hot, and points out that the comparatively high germicidal efficiency of milk of lime, combined with its very low cost, renders it particularly suitable as a sugar factory germicide.

\* \* \*

MR. C. F. KINMAN has been investigating the subject of the fertilisation of Citrus trees in Porto Rico. He states that the response to fertilisation was very prompt and the effect produced pronounced on both trees and quantity of fruit produced. The appearance and growth of the trees which were given a complete fertilizer was practically the same, except in the case of those trees which received nitrogen in the form of dried blood. The amount of fruit obtained from the unmanured trees was only 27 per cent. of that from the manured trees.

\* \* \*

In this connection the question of flavour is of the greatest importance, but no constant differences were discovered between the flavour of the fruit grown under different manures. As regards the area of application of the fertilizers, Mr. Kinman states that examination of the roots shows that the fertilizers should be applied to the ground from near the trees to well beyond the tips of the branches.

\* \* \*

Mr. R. W. Anstead has been going into the question of the manuring of coffee in relation to the composition of the coffee berry. He has found that in South India, under well-established mixed strata some four tons of air-dried mulch is accumulated per acre per year. This contains about 100 lbs. of nitrogen, 223 lbs. of lime, 36 lbs. of phosphoric acid and 118 lbs. of potash. As regards the coffee berries, analysis showed that there was a steady increase in the quantity of potash throughout the period of growth. The phosphoric acid is constant at first with a maximum about two months before ripening, when decline sets in. The nitrogen increases steadily throughout the whole period of growth.

The R.M.S. *Magdalena* reached the Thames on August 14th, five days late, and the R.M.S. *Mexico* is not expected to arrive until August 23rd, or *ten days late*. Such unwarrantable delays are not calculated to facilitate the negotiations of the modified mail service. If the monthly service is to be as slow and irregular as the fortnightly one has been it will be practically valueless. These delays add force to the views of the West India Committee that the new service should be at least a 13-knot one. The following notes are taken from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

## ANTIQUA.—The State of the Island's Roads.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, JULY 23rd.—The weather during the past fortnight has been favourable to the growing crop, sufficient rain having fallen for the canes without interfering with the reaping. Gunthorpe's are still grinding, but the saccharin contents of the canes has fallen off very much. Crop should have finished by the end of the month except on a few estates making muscovado. The season has been a trying one, the constant showers having hindered the drying of fuel.

I regret to have to report the death, after an illness of eight days, of Mr. James Peters, for many years magistrate's clerk here and a Government official of thirty-eight years' standing. "Jimmy" Peters will be much missed and regretted by a number of personal friends.

At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society His Excellency presided, and a discussion took place on the very bad condition of roads in the island. Some very strong expressions of opinion were made, and a committee appointed to lay the whole question before His Excellency. The roads are in a disreputable condition, and have been gradually getting worse for the past ten years. Slowly but surely they are being dug down until they are almost flat, and no foundation left. Fifteen years ago our roads were perhaps the best in the West Indies and a credit to a small community. Just the reverse may be said now.

It has been decided to hold a maize show some time towards the end of the year. The question of growing a sufficiency of maize to supply local needs is a serious one, and the holding of a maize show will help to stimulate growers.

The Full Court (of Appeal) has been sitting during the week, and for the past four days the case of *McDonalds' v. Captain Dew* has been and is occupying the Judges, S. W. Fred Maxwell, C.J., the Hon. T. S. Sydney Acting Puisne Judge, and the Hon. Sholto Pemberton, Second Puisne Judge. The case is an application for a new trial of the case, *McDonald v. Dew*, that was tried at last Court before Mr. Justice Walton, and involves the sum of £4,800 claimed as damages by *McDonald & Co.* for non-delivery of sugar. It was decided against the plaintiff at the trial, and from this they are appealing and asking for a new trial on grounds of misdirection by Justice Walton. It is a very serious case for both. I do not know who is the writer of the War articles in *Magazine*, but I must again congratulate him or her on the concise and plain summary of events given; very much appreciated by readers out here.

## BARBADOS.—Healthy Cane Crops.

Frequent showers and bright suns alternated during the fortnight. The *Barbados Advocate*, mail edition, states that some reaping remained to be done in St. Joseph's and parts of St. Thomas and St. Lucy. The juice is very weak owing to excessive moisture.

Local prices were \$3.70 per 100 lbs. for crystals and \$3.50 for centrifugals, with syrup 24 cts. per gallon and molasses 16 cts. 26,920 tons of sugar and 30,026 puncheons of molasses had been shipped to date, as compared with

27,784 tons and 76,999 puncheons at the corresponding date last year. The cane fields and food crops were everywhere healthy.

#### BRITISH GUIANA.—The West Indian Contingent.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JULY 24th. Upwards of 755 men have applied for enlistment in the West Indian Contingent, and suitable men are being selected. The local Aeroplane Fund now stands at \$4,725.

The half-yearly meeting of the "Hand-in-Hand" and the "R.G. Mutual" were held on July 16th and 19th respectively. The former declared 3 per cent. and the latter 2½ per cent. on the scrip capital for the half year.

The Governor has paid a visit to the Essequibo coast during the past week. The proprietors have approved the proposed extension of the South Wing Dam by the East Demerara Water Commissioners, and have sanctioned the expenditure of \$5,000. The midsummer races of the Turf Club were held on July 14th-15th. The Chamber of Commerce on July 20th recorded its protest against the proposals of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to substitute a monthly 11-knot service for the present fortnightly 13-knot one. On the whole, the weather has been favourable, though the rainfall has been rather heavy in places.

#### DOMINICA.—The Need for an Alternative Industry.

MR. H. A. AGAR, JULY 22nd.—Your leading article on Dominica shows that we are advancing rapidly. Your warning against depending upon a single industry is most sound. The only question is, What are we to grow as a second string? Cacao is evidently not suitable except in small districts; sugar is out of the question (as various correspondents point out), and rubber, which a few years ago was so highly hooped, is evidently useless. The only two crops that look like helping us are coconuts and vanilla. The former is already being planted up fairly extensively, and so far no blights have attacked any trees. Vanilla is being planted by one or two cultivators, but it must take some time, largely owing to the difficulty of obtaining cuttings, for this to assume any valuable proportion. I trust that you will keep our island well in your mind when the War is over. There will be scores of men, who had intended to live their lives in the City, but who now, after their time in the fighting line, will be unable to face such a life, and who will look to the Colonies for an outlet to their energies. I congratulate Mr. W. R. Dunlop upon his article on the Lime and the Lemon, as summarised by you. It is very accurate regarding the former, and the comparative information about the two fruits will be of great use to us.

There is a rumour that the small French steamer *Liffeld*, about half the size of the *Yare*, is to take up the coastal service at the rate of £1,300 per annum, this arrangement to come into force in September. A public meeting was held the other day in response to the appeal issued by the "National Committee for Relief in Belgium." This will no doubt bring forth a generous contribution. The officials, I understand, have already offered to contribute £60 a month, equal to about one day's pay per month, which, seeing the scale upon which most of them are paid, is exceedingly generous. The weather during the past fortnight has been decidedly wet, with a good deal of thunder.

The homeward mail this time takes a large number of passengers from here. The Rector and Mrs. Pouchier and their two children are going on three months' leave (Rev. Levo, from St. Thomas, having come to act as *locum tenens*); Captain A. S. Randell, who, I understand, has a commission in view; Major R. F. Recher, who has also found a use for his services at home; Miss G. Nicholls; and Dr. Myers (who wishes to give his services as a doctor to the Empire), with his family.

Captain Randell will be hard to replace in charge of the Defence Force. Not only has he been an exceedingly popular officer, but the men have come on well since he took charge, notwithstanding the fact that he has been continually losing his best men, who have left for more serious service at home. The command will devolve upon Lieut. Harry Walker, and I do not think we could find a better substitute for Captain Randell.

#### MONTERRAT.—An Onion Growing Effort.

MR. K. J. PENCHOEN, JULY 23rd.—Weather conditions continue favourable, and all crops—cotton, cane, and corn—look promising. Dr. Tempany addressed a meeting of planters at the Court House last month on Onion Growing, and advised the forming of an Onion Growers' Association for the purpose of controlling the handling and shipping of onions grown here, as has been done in Antigua with success. The Government has agreed to finance the Association with £200 to give a start, and with proper co-operation on the part of growers the scheme is bound to be a success. We are still unable to get our produce away satisfactorily. The Royal Mail Company take some once a month, but there is still a considerable quantity of cotton to be shipped, and if we do not get it away more quickly, a considerable amount will be on hand when we start reaping the next crop.

His Excellency the Acting Governor, Mr. Best, arrived in the island on July 22nd, and he was able to grasp the serious situation to the government caused by Mr. Dyett's death. (Mr. Penchoen's sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. Dyett is given in another column.) The Hon. Dr. McPherson acted since then until now as Commissioner-Magistrate. Mr. Kortright Dyett, from Antigua, comes this afternoon to act in that capacity, and Mr. J. R. Maden (a former First Treasury Clerk here), from Tortola, to act as Assistant Treasurer. His Excellency the Acting Governor and his A.D.C., Major Beamish, attended Mr. Dyett's funeral in uniform.

#### ST. KITTS.—Proposed Factory Rail Extension.

MR. E. J. SUELFORD, JULY 27th.—A severe thunderstorm occurred on the night of the 15th inst., which gave us a general island rainfall of about six inches. I think the rain must have been much heavier in the mountains, however, as all the ravines and gullies ran very heavily, doing considerable damage in many places, and our roads were badly blocked with sand and boulders brought down from the hills. The young crops, both cane and cotton, look very promising to the present.

A scheme has been drawn up proposing that a railway be constructed to connect the North side sugar estates with the Central Factory rail lines, the estates concerned to come into the scheme on the same terms as the original contracting estates. Since the erection of the present Factory in 1912, the cane crops of the district have been below the average, and the cane supply to the Factory inadequate for good results. In these unsettled times there are so many difficulties arising with respect to the erecting of a second Factory that it is to be hoped the scheme will be accepted for the benefit of all parties concerned.

#### TOBAGO.—The Curse of Prædial Larceny.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, JULY 23rd.—For the past fortnight we have had heavy rains continuously, save on the Sundays, which were bright and sunny. The rivers are all thoroughly washed out for the first time for over three years, and there is now no longer fear of a recrudescence of dreaded dysentery—an annual visitation, especially in seasons of drought. From this cause alone we lost over 500 persons within a short time in 1912. At the Botanic Station in Scarborough 3.40 inches are recorded from the 9th to 22nd, making altogether 11.97 inches to date, as against 6.57 inches for the whole month of July last year. The cacao and tobacco crops are all reaped and marketed. The tobacco crop begins in August, and, given favourable weather, lasts until the end of the following June. With the exceptionally grand weather now prevailing, an early and large cacao picking is anticipated in November. Sugar making has now ceased, to be resumed at Christmas with the stand-over canes. Coconuts, being so fond of water, both salt and fresh, are found to bear fruit abundantly, everything is in their favour. The planting of corn and vegetables is proceeding apace, and in this connection it might be as well to mention how unfortunately we are placed. We could easily supply Trinidad and ourselves with large quantities of vegetables did we but know how to prevent them from rotting after reaping. Vams gi

trouble in this respect, but even the superior varieties do not appear to be favourites in the markets at Port of Spain. Plantains are all right, but there is no demand for bananas. Sweet cassava and bread fruit are out of it entirely, as they must be used fresh. It is the sweet potato, peas, tannias, and Indian corn that give trouble. The wise invention of Sir Hesketh Bell in Antigua of kiln-drying the corn and manufacturing corn meal has not yet been adopted here. In 1914 we exported corn to the value of £33 apart from the large quantity consumed locally; £1,029 worth of peas, and £3,271 of vegetables. Could we keep away the weevils from the corn and peas, and worms from the sweet potato and tannias, very much larger quantities would be exported.

The population of the island is 21,000, the birth-rate over 800, of which, from various causes, preventable and otherwise, only two-thirds survive. Last month the Registrar of Births for the Northern District recorded within a brief period the births of thirteen children from six mothers, five cases of twins and one of triplets. Amongst such a prolific people no wonder was expressed—it was simply looked upon in a cursory way as of an every-day occurrence. So sorry we cannot save the lives of the third that die, and sorer yet that we do not try to do so.

The planters and other responsible sections of the community are alarmed, and rightly so, at the high increase of Prædial Larceny, but what can be expected from a system that is responsible for a delay of from three months and more for a case to be reached on the list for trial after it is placed there. In Scarborough, Police and Magistrates' Courts are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during three weeks in the month, which gives but six days in which to hear and determine a usually long list of mixed cases, and two days in thirty to do the same at Roxborough. Courts should be held daily in Scarborough when there is need to do so, and weekly at the latter place. We have all had to resolve to bear and grin some offences that may be perpetrated against us, and in addition to "turn the other cheek" rather than seek satisfaction in the Magistrate's Court with its provoking long delays. No individual can be blamed, but the system that permits such a state of affairs to exist calls for strong condemnation. It is a positive discomfort to have to transact business in the Public Buildings on Court days with the large throng of litigants and their followers waiting impatiently in the lobby and overflowing on to the portico, steps, courtyard, and adjoining streets. Prompt administration of justice is essential in this community, if in no other. Cases long delayed, as at present, works havoc amongst a people already prone to litigation, and prevents that steady application to their cultivations which is so necessary for the continued prosperity of the island. It is suggested that children should at a tender age be taught lessons in honesty and obedience in the schools as a first step towards the abolition of prædial larceny. Doubtless an excellent idea, but it can hardly be of much good until education is made compulsory, so that all the children, and not a section only, may be instructed. The school managers are clergymen, and quite an excellent body to lecture on obedience, the teachers on the other hand are equally capable to demonstrate on the principles of honesty. The recommendation to increase the cacao dealers' licence from £2 to £5, with substantial Bond in addition, is expected to lessen prædial larceny of cacao. This wise suggestion originally emanated from the Tobago Planters' Association.

#### TRINIDAD—The West Indian Contingent.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUG. 3rd.—A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on the 30th July, when the telegram regarding a West Indian Contingent, already published elsewhere in the previous week, was laid. It was announced that Demerara had withdrawn from the proposal owing to the expense. The cost of sending 400 to 450 men from Trinidad was estimated at £10,000. Jamaica and St. Lucia were discussed as places of concentration. It was announced that Mr. W. Gordon Gordon had offered to subscribe £1,000 if it were decided to defray the cost otherwise than from public funds, but it appears that the

revenue to date is more than £20,000 beyond the estimate, and there is also a considerable balance remaining from the original military vote. Nothing seems to have been decided at the meeting, but the whole question will come on at a Special Meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 9th inst. Apparently there is no hurry. At any rate, it is satisfactory to know that the local forces, horse, foot, and constabulary, are volunteering for the Front in the most commendable spirit. The Governor has announced that he will be leaving the colony for good early in October.

Official Intercourse Services in connection with the War were held on Sunday at both the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals. At Holy Trinity the Bishop delivered a very striking address, generally said to be the finest effort of His Lordship since he has been amongst us. A public meeting is convened by the Mayor for to-morrow evening, the anniversary of the declaration of War, when the resolution recording our determination with that of the rest of the Empire to continue the struggle to a victorious end will be submitted.

[From a subsequent cable we learn that the following resolution, moved by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, and seconded by Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., was passed unanimously:—"That on this anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war this meeting of the citizens of Port-of-Spain records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies."]

#### BIRTH.

Henriques.—On July 31st, at 10, Onslow Square, the wife of Mr. Harold L. Q. Henriques, of a daughter.

#### WANTS.

Assistant Engineer.—Fully qualified Assistant Engineer for Sugar Estate in Trinidad. Would be required to assist in Factory management in addition to engineering duties. Write, with credentials, and stating salary required, to Messrs. Arbuthnot, Latham & Co., 33, Great St. Helens, E.C.

Experienced Sugar Planter and Manufacturer—(over military age) open for an engagement. Thorough knowledge of Spanish.—Appy "Z," West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

### Some Hints to Travellers in War time.

DEAR SIR,—The following notes may be of use to those who are coming home per R.M.S.P.—A passport is absolutely necessary; do not ask Royal Mail local agents if one is required, as they know nothing about it. The Trinidad agent told one of my fellow passengers that it was not necessary to have one. The luggage is examined on board on the main deck forward. Special questions are asked regarding revolvers and fire-arms. Train tickets are issued by a railway official on board at Tilbury, 2/6. An official brings telegraph forms on board and is careful to tell you that he only sends them as a favour, which means a penny or twopence extra. The luggage is put on the ordinary train, which has only one van, consequently you have to remain at Fenchurch Street till the next train comes in, unless by good luck all your luggage is on the first. Why an extra van should not be at Tilbury, I know not.

To those who are accustomed to the Southampton arrangements the present arrangements are lamentable, but it is all put down to the War.

These notes refer to landing at Tilbury.

Yours truly,

E. F. BECHER.

**OBITUARY.**

HON. E. F. DYETT.

We regret to state that the Hon. E. F. Dyett Acting Commissioner of Montserrat, died suddenly in that island on July 12th.

Mr. Penchoen, our Hon. Correspondent in the island, writes:—"The sad and tragic death of our Acting Commissioner has cast a terrible gloom over the whole community. Mr. Dyett was found dead in a chair in his bedroom. He was suffering from angina pectoris, but was up and about up to Sunday evening, the 11th, though not feeling well. At the time of his death he was Acting Commissioner and Magistrate, as well as performing his duties as Treasurer, with the first Treasury Officer and Cashier, Mr. Geoffrey Boon, away on leave (he has, we hear, obtained a commission in the Royal Field Artillery). Mr. Dyett was a most able and efficient officer, and there is no man in the service here, and few elsewhere, who could fill the numerous offices he was called upon to fill at times. Mr. Dyett entered the service some 30 years ago as treasury clerk at a salary of £60 per annum. Since then his services have been given here, except for a short period when he acted as postmaster in Antigua. He has filled at one time or another every post in the Government service with zeal and confidence. It will be difficult to replace such a man. His wife and family were living in Antigua for the education of the children, and he was alone at the time of his death. The whole community extend their sympathy to them. Mr. Dyett was buried with military honours. He was a lieutenant in the Defence Force, and he was borne and attended by all the members of the Force present in the island. Three volleys were fired over his grave and the Last Post sounded."

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Latest Quotations.		PICKERS
4 %	Antigua Redeemable 1919-44 ...	95x3
4 %	Barbados Redeemable 1925-42 ...	86½
4 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1935 ...	94
4 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1923-45 ...	74
4 %	Grenada Redeemable 1917-42 ...	92½
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1914 ...	92½
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1919-49 ...	83½
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1922-44 ...	75
4 %	St. Lucia Redeemable 1919-44 ...	95
4 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1917-42 ...	91
4 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1922-44 ...	91
	The Colonial Bank ...	4 19/32
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	72½
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	87½
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ % Debentures	85
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	92
4 %	Imperial Direct Line 4½ % Debentures	100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	111
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	97½
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	77-81
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (15/- shares) ...	31
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid) ...	12½
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	28
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	102
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ...	74
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	85
4 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	22½
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref	83
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd "	84
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	9½

**The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.**

The production of petroleum for week ended Wednesday, August 11th, was 546 tons.

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Magdalena, Tilbury, London, August 14th:—**

Major E. F. Beecher	Mr. E. K. D. Hinkson	Capt. A. S. Randall
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Roul- riques	Miss C. M. D. Hinkson	Mrs. E. D. Rowland
Mr. J. Wenham	Mr. R. Haynes	Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Skin- ner
Mr. E. H. S. Warneford	Mr. H. R. Ingram	Misses Skinner (2)
Mr. E. F. Adams	Mr. J. F. Irving	Mr. D. N. Smith
Miss M. W. Barr	Misses Iode (3)	Mrs. E. M. Sadder
Mr. L. D. Banks	Mr. D. K. Jardine	Mrs. A. R. Short
Rev. & Mrs. C. Bouchier	Miss A. A. James	Mr. J. Soloway
Mr. J. T. Burns	Mr. J. K. Kerr	Canon & Mrs. Trotter
Rev. Father C. Cooksey	Mr. J. Kirkness	Mr. W. D. Thompson
Miss B. Donnelly	Capt. F. W. Makin	Mr. G. Weller
Mrs. H. E. Dunning	Mr. N. McClumpha	Dr. R. P. Weldon
Mr. R. L. Dunn	Miss E. M. Martin	Mr. E. Vule
Miss E. Gillespie	Dr. & Mrs. A. A. Myers	Rev. J. J. C. Yarborough
Mr. C. Green	Dr. & Mrs. E. P. Minnett	Misses Yarborough (2)
Mr. C. T. Gale	Mr. W. McGraw	
Miss N. Howard	Miss G. Nicholls	
	Mrs. E. M. Inskip Read	

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. Magdalena, August 25th:—**

Mr. H. Deverell	Dr. & Mrs. R. C. Neu- nell	Mr. P. C. Smith
Mr. K. Strang	Mr. J. D. Fisher	Rev. Wm. McWhirter
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Vezey	Mrs. M. Pollard	Miss B. M. Lyons
Sister M. A. Gonzales	Mr. A. E. Bradley	Miss H. L. Skeele
Sister A. Pardo	Miss D. Carroll	Miss E. M. Deacon
Mr. A. L. Vaughan	Rev. & Mrs. W. McMillan	Mr. W. D. Roskilly

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. E. Fitzgerald	Mr. A. E. Perkins
Major E. F. Beecher	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. W. C. Robertson
H. E. Sir H. Hesketh	Mr. J. M. Fleming	Mr. W. F. Samuels
Bell K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. A. Campbell	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	His Honour Leslie Jarvis	Mr. E. C. Skinner
Mr. Cecil H. Chambers	Mr. M. Mooly-Stuart	Mr. W. Smith
Hon. F. Driver		Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.		
Lieut Col J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossinoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton		
The Very Rev. Dean of Georgelown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey		
Hon. P. J. Dean, St. Brannocks, Mundesley, Norfolk		
Mr. T. L. Dunsie, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Rood Lane, E. C.		
Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisborough Green, Sussex.		
Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, George Street, Glasgow.		
Mr. J. A. Gordon, c/o C. W. Stevens, Esq., 16, Great St. Helens, E. C.		
Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London W.C.		
Mr. S. W. Mathews, The Plains, Wetheral, Carlisle.		
Mr. Win. McLaten, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.		
Mr. H. C. Marcom, Great Meads, Cheshire		
Mr. R. S. Reid, c/o Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons, 119, Cannon St. E. C.		
Mr. H. F. Wildy, 49, Church Lane, Horsey, N.		

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Aug. 14th, "Fine rains generally throughout the island."  
 Guiana (Messrs. Rooker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Aug. 14th, "Weather favourable"; (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Aug. 16th, "Thunder showers"; Aug. 17th, "Weather dry." Jamaica (The Direct West India Co., Ltd.), Week ending July 28th: Port Antonio, to 24th "Fine"; 25th to 26th "Rain"; 27th "Fair"; "Rain" Kingston, 22nd to 28th "Rain." Week ending Aug. 4th: Port Antonio, 29th to 31st "Rain"; 1st to 4th "Fair." Kingston, "Fine."

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
Jan. 1 to July 15.		Jan. 1 to July 15.	
1915	1914	1915	1914
Sugar ...	45,489	40,174 Tons.	827 Puns.
Molasses ...	2,149,874	1,660,132	Galls.
Rum ...	981	1,053	Tons.
Melasscut, &c. ...	38,083	33,437 lbs.	
Cacao ...	135,709	332,026	No.
Coco-nuts ...	1,109,234	1,095,671	No.
Oranges ...			
Bananas ...			
Cotton ...			
Painto ...			
Ginger ...			
Honey ...			
Drywoods ...			
Gold ...	31,696	34,203	Oz.
Diamonds ...	471	6,839	Carats.
Rice ...	13,150,236	9,152,113	lbs.
Balata ...	853,291	368,969	..
Robber ...	1,979	665	..
Timber ...	85,590	132,789	cubic ft.
Lumber ...	49,779	198,145	ft.
Lime (airrate of) ...	7,938	2,421	lbs.

Trinidad.		Barbados.	
Jan. 1 to July 27.		Jan. 1 to July 15.	
1915	1914	1915	1914
Sugar ...	37,847	36,970	Tons.
Molasses ...	2,344	3,132	Puns.
Rum ...	4,116	669	..
Coco-nuts ...	5,294,715	9,436,245	No.
Asphalt ...	51,314	101,417	Tons.
Manjak ...	313	164	..
Biters ...	9,325	10,556	Cases.
Coffee ...	10,240	13,440	lbs.
Crude Petrol ...	2,628,041	10,299,401	Galls.
Carao ...	40,524,600	57,257,200	lbs.
Seed ...			
Copra ...	13,561	4,556	Bags.
Spice ...			
Kola ...			

Orenada.			
Oct. 1 to July 25.			
1914/15	1913/14		
Cacao ...	10,065,560	11,651,401	lbs.
Cacao ...	102,151	1,172	Bales.
Cacao ...	1,014	3,558	Bags.
Cacao ...	188	196	..
Cacao ...	1,143,915	1,056,670	lbs.
Cacao ...	3,390	6,950	..

Dominica.		Jan. 1 to June 30.	
1915.		1914.	
Cacao ...	484,064	474,320	lbs.
Limes ...	25,119	27,308	barrels.
Lime Juice, raw ...	205,605	53,687	galls.
concentrated ...	13,683	27,106	..
Clarate of ...	220	2,422	cwts.
Lime Oil, distilled ...	592	1,291	galls.
equiled ...	157	395	..
Hardwood ...	22,911	33,573	feet.
Bananas ...	1,086	1,747	stems
Coconuts ...	236,806	269,085	No.

**BANK RATE**—Remains at 5 per cent as from the 8th of August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 98 cum rights and 97½ ex rights, the old War Loan at 92½, and Consols at 65.

**SUGAR**—The feature of the United Kingdom sugar market during the fortnight has been the scarcity of refiners' products. The refining power of this country is very limited. During the last seven months it may be taken that the refineries have been working at their maximum power, yet they have only been turning out sugar at the rate of 850,000 tons per annum, whereas quite 500,000 tons more are required to make the United Kingdom independent of imported white sugar, provided that refiners' granulated keeps plantation white sugar out of the market for direct consumption. This deficiency has been made more than usually apparent by the exhaustion of the Government stock of white Javas from last crop, and by the shortage of American granulated. In this connection it is of interest to note that the Dutch Government have reduced the proportion of the Dutch crop to be exported to 40 per cent. from 60 per cent., bringing down the available sugar from this source from 150,000 to 100,000 tons. It is a pity that the public generally do not recognise the great dietic value of the grocery crystallised sugars from the West Indies as sweetening agents, and also that the retailers put a fancy price on these sugars, which, although affording a substantial testimony to their worth, materially prejudices their sale.

When the War is over, and sugar distribution follows its natural course, largely increased imports may be looked for into India. The sugar crop of that country, in spite of the constant official attention which has been directed to it of late years, is, to say the most of it, stationary. As against this, the consumption is increasing, a prominent cause being the growing taste for tea amongst the natives. These, with the exception of the Nepaules, who enjoy the unique distinction of using butter for the purpose, sweeten their tea with sugar. The tea-drinking habit, when once started, spreads rapidly, and a good part of the world-increased consumption is due to this cause. The normal imports of sugar into India are about 800,000 tons per annum, and when the Eastern-produced sugars, now drawn Westward by the *force majeure* of official compulsion or of the sovereign, is allowed to go to India, there will be little or no chance of Eastern sugar coming this way. Indeed, if the 300,000,000 inhabitants of India take to tea-drinking, the sugar demands of that country will be enormous. There is, of course, always the chance of the Indian Government putting the matter of Indian sugar production on a business basis, and encouraging the introduction of capital for establishing large sugar concerns by raising their present 5 per cent. protection to a figure sufficient to make development a working proposition; but as things now are, such an action does not seem at all probable.

The 1915-16 Cuban crop was recently mentioned in the Summary as being likely to reach 2,700,000 tons. The Havana correspondent of the *Louisiana Planter* now considers that a 3,000,000-ton crop is quite within the range of probability.

According to Messrs. Willett & Gray, a Japanese refinery has arranged with the British Government to supply 500 tons of refined sugar monthly. This is a drop in the ocean of British consumption, but shows the extent of ramifications of the Sugar Commission. The same authority reports also the purchase of 15,000 tons of 96° sugar for Great Britain at 15s. f.o.b. from Peru.

The scheme for the taking over of the Cantley Sugar Factory in Norfolk by a British company has fallen through, and it is now proposed to erect a separate factory by the formation of a company with a capital of £200,000, to work up about 48,000 tons of roots per crop. It is proposed to pay for the washed roots 23s. per ton of roots containing 15 per cent. of sugar, with 1s. per ton for each percentage above this figure, with a percentage of the beet pulp free of charge to the farmers.

THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee's Map of the West Indies should be in every West Indian business-man's office. It is indispensable.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 6s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are connected with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.



The import of sugar into India for the three months ending June 30th was 67,665 tons, as against 99,682 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

A pioneer beet sugar factory has just finished its crop in Victoria, N.S.W. 10,000 tons of beets were worked, and produced successful results with the aid of a protective tariff of £6 per ton.

A meeting of planters recently held at Port Louis, Mauritius, agreed to accept the terms offered by the Government for their embargoed sugar. The minority, which included all of the largest firms connected with the island, protested strongly, and the Government are still considering the question. It will be remembered that the prices offered by the Government were 17s. 6d. f.o.b. for first grade, 17s. 2d. for second grade, and 16s. 10d. for third grade white sugar—prices considerably below what was being offered by India and France.

At the end of July the stocks in the United Kingdom amounted to 182,275 tons, some 50,000 tons less than at the end of July last year. The consumption for the twelve months of the War, reckoned on the imports from the 1st August, 1914, to the 31st July, 1915, has been 1,783,157 tons, some 222,843 tons less than for 1913. Considering that the increase in price is quite 70 per cent. higher than then obtained, and taking into account the pecuniary strain caused by the War, this figure is extremely low. The imports during these twelve months included 264,996 tons from Cuba, 489,456 tons from Java, 129,906 tons from the British West Indies, 138,000 tons from Holland, and about 180,000 tons from Mauritius. With the Cuban, Javan, and American sugars arriving and to arrive, with the prospective sugars from Mauritius and British Guiana, and with sugars from miscellaneous sources, the British Government should be well provided for the next five months.

In the London Market, sales of crystallised were resumed on the 17th inst. There was little demand, prices remaining unchanged. Of 4,553 bags of Trinidad crystallised, 673 bags were sold at 24s. 9d. to 27s.; 1,200 bags of St. Lucia were sold at 25s. 6d.; 1,101 bags Demerara fetched 25s. 6d. to 27s. 6d. for choice. On the 20th, 920 tons of grocery crystallised were offered, which met with slow demand at previous rates. The Trinidad and Antigua sugar was bought in; 710 bags Jamaica sold at 24s. 9d. to 25s. 3d.; and 456 bags of Demerara at 24s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. 667 mats of Mauritius syrup sold at 17s. 3d. to 19s. 3d. At to-day's sales, 500 bags were put up. The demand was slight, and only a small quantity was disposed of at previous prices. The Trinidad and Antigua lots were bought in. St. Lucia sold at 25s. 6d. to 25s. 9d., and Demerara at 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d. 133 bags Demerara syrups sold at 20s. 9d. to 21s.

Tate's cubes are quoted at 31s., Java crystals at 27s. 3d., and American granulated at 29s.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to August 14th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports	33,327	23,904	32,306	22,831	29,858
Deliveries	25,517	20,260	18,346	19,006	22,774
Stock	13,819	16,686	15,800	8,313	11,444

At the date of last Summary, the market in New York was recovering to some extent from the acute drop it had experienced during the preceding ten days, the value of duty-paid 96° having risen to \$4.55, and of granulated to \$5.70. From this point prices rose rapidly, until by the 13th \$4.95 was touched for the former class of sugar. Prices, however, soon declined, \$4.83 being registered on the 14th and \$4.77 on the 19th, and now stands at \$4.70 for 96° and \$5.70 for granulated.

The cause of the sudden rise is stated in some quarters to have been speculation; but there is no doubt that the heavy purchases of Cuban, said to be as much as 100,000 tons, and of granulated in New York, both for near delivery, by the British Government, had much to do with it.

**RUM**—The market is very strong. The value of Demeraras may be taken as being 2s. 9d. per proof gallon. Jamaicas have advanced 4d., and may be quoted at 4s. 1d. to 4s. 4d. per gallon.

Stocks in London on August 14th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica	4,778	8,708	7,061	8,228	10,575
Demerara	5,195	10,625	7,571	6,688	5,039
Total, all kinds	19,394	26,873	22,020	22,301	25,399

**CACAO**—The cacao export prohibition is still casting a gloom over the market. Auction sales were resumed on the 17th, and West Indian kinds suffered a decline in value of from 2s. to 3s. Out of 2,133 bags of Trinidad offered, 620 sold at 79s. 6d. to 81s. A portion of this consisted of the gift by that colony to the Army and Navy, which sold at from 79s. 6d. to 80s. 6d. 39 bags of Grenada were scheduled, but were withdrawn, having been disposed of privately at 80s. for fine quality. Of the 390 bags of Grenada offered, 107 bags sold at 77s. to 77s. 6d. A few bags of St. Lucia fetched 75s.

The stocks in London on August 14th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	13,960	10,653	11,885	6,872	8,400
Grenada	3,098	9,797	5,694	6,687	14,571
Total, all kinds	100,838	95,621	81,436	122,290	120,623

**COTTON**—There has been a little business doing in West Indian Sea Island cotton since our last report, the sales amounting to 100 to 150 bales, chiefly St. Vincent, from 18d. to 20d., with a few of other growths at 15d. The market is steady.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs and Mace.—In the absence of supplies the prices remain unchanged. For Nutmegs, 10/80's may be quoted at 4½d. to 5½d.; 120/100's at 4½d. to 4½d.; 140/120's at 4½d. to 4½d. Mace may be quoted at good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 11d.; red to good, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d.; broken, 9d. to 1s. 4d. Ginger.—There is very little enquiry for Jamaica at the moment. Quotations show little change, and are somewhat normal, say 57s. 6d. to 75s. for ratoon to bold clean. Pimento.—Fair to good, 1½d. to 1½d.; ordinary to middling, 1½d. to 1½d.

**ARROWROOT**—The market is quiet but steady. The sale of 300 barrels is reported at 2½d. to 4d. Nominal quotations 2½d. to 4½d.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil—Distilled is badly wanted, and extreme prices would be obtained for early supplies. There has been no business in handpressed for the fortnight, but prices are tending upwards. Lime Juice—Raw is very quiet. New parcels are arriving, but there is scarcely any demand. Concentrated is much dearer, owing to temporary shortage, and £30 has been paid. Citrate of Lime remains at £25 c.i.f. New York per pipe.

**RUBBER**—Prices for plantation have been slightly easier. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2s. 5d., smoked sheet at 2s. 4½d. The Para market has been firm, 2s. 4½d. being given for fine hard Para and 2s. 3d. for soft. Castillon sheet is quoted at 2s. 2d., scrap at 1s. 6d.

**BALATA**—Very little business doing. Prices 1s. 11½d. for block and 2s. 5d. for sheet.

**COPRA**—The market is dull, and no sales have been reported in the West Indian. Fair merchantable may be quoted at £24.

**HONEY**—The market is rather easier, and but little Jamaica has been offered at auction. Quotations are about 27s. to 38s. for dark liquid to fine pale.

**MANURES**—The market for Sulphate of Ammonia and Nitrate of Soda is steady with unchanged prices. Quotations £15 for sulphate and £13 for nitrate. Ordinary Superphosphate is slightly dearer at £3 17s. to £4 10s. concentrated unchanged at £14 to £15 15s. There is good enquiry for Basic Slag which is difficult to obtain. Value £3 5s. to £3 10s.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Stronger. American 9d., white 10d.

**TIMBER**—British Guiana Greenheart is quoted at £11 to £13 per load of 50 cubic feet.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

August 24th, 1915.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.,

Telegrams :

CARIB, LONDON.

September 6th, 1915.

## THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

**A**N advance detachment of the West Indian Contingent, comprising a number of men from British Guiana, has, we are glad to learn, now arrived safely in England. Though it is not desirable, for obvious reasons, to mention dates, we are in a position to state that within a few weeks' time the remainder of the first West Indian Expeditionary Force will shortly reach this country, where it will undergo its preliminary military training which will fit it to take its place alongside the troops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Bermuda—whose small contingent has been distinguishing itself at the Front for some little time, though it has not been in the limelight. What the West Indian contribution to the forces of the King lacks in numbers it will make good in enthusiasm and soldierly qualities. Of that we may be certain, for the men have been most carefully selected by the various local recruiting committees, special attention having been paid to their moral character and physical condition. The Contingent will be representative of all the West Indian Colonies, Barbados and British Guiana, whose adhesion was doubtful, having, after all, decided to participate, besides sending over many recruits to the new armies. It will, too, be representative of all races in the West Indies, including even a proportion of East Indians from British Guiana. The Contingent will furnish notable proof of the fact that the West Indies are indeed united. Some weeks, if not months, must elapse before the West Indians can hope to leave for the Front, and it is impossible as yet to forecast with any degree of accuracy where their sphere of activity will be. But, wherever they may be called

upon to serve, we can confidently predict that our gallant West Indian volunteers will render a good account of themselves.

Visitors from overseas can always count upon receiving a cordial welcome when they come "home," as the old country is affectionately called by all the King's subjects, whether they have been there or not, and it will, we believe, be gratifying to friends and relations in the West Indies to know that the welfare of the members of their Contingent will be well provided for. The suggestion made by the West India Committee that a special organisation should be set up with this end in view has, we are glad to be able to state, been adopted. On the invitation of MR. BONAR LAW, Secretary of State for the Colonies, a number of gentlemen connected with the West Indies met at the Colonial Office on August 31st, and formed themselves into a West Indian Contingent Committee, including six members of the West India Committee, whose endeavour it will be to do all that is possible to provide for the well-being and comfort of the men. Of this organisation SIR EVERARD IM THURN, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been appointed Chairman, while the Secretary of the West India Committee, at whose offices at 15, Seething Lane, the headquarters will be, is the Hon. Secretary. In future issues we shall hope to record the proceedings of this Contingent Committee, which is certain to have a busy and which, it is hoped, will also have a useful career before it. For the carrying out of its objects, funds will, of course, be needed, and in spite of the many calls which have recently been made on the purses of those connected with the West Indies, it is hoped that an appeal which will shortly be issued will meet with a generous response. Later on, gifts in kind will also be welcomed, and we may rest assured that the cordial co-operation of the Editors of our contemporaries in the West Indies will be ungrudgingly given in making the needs and requirements of the men known, and in furnishing us with extra copies of their publications for use in the recreation huts. We will conclude by extending to the West Indian Contingent a cordial and hearty welcome, and by expressing the fervent hope that good fortune may attend them in whatever enterprise they may undertake.

## BET SUGAR IN ENGLAND.

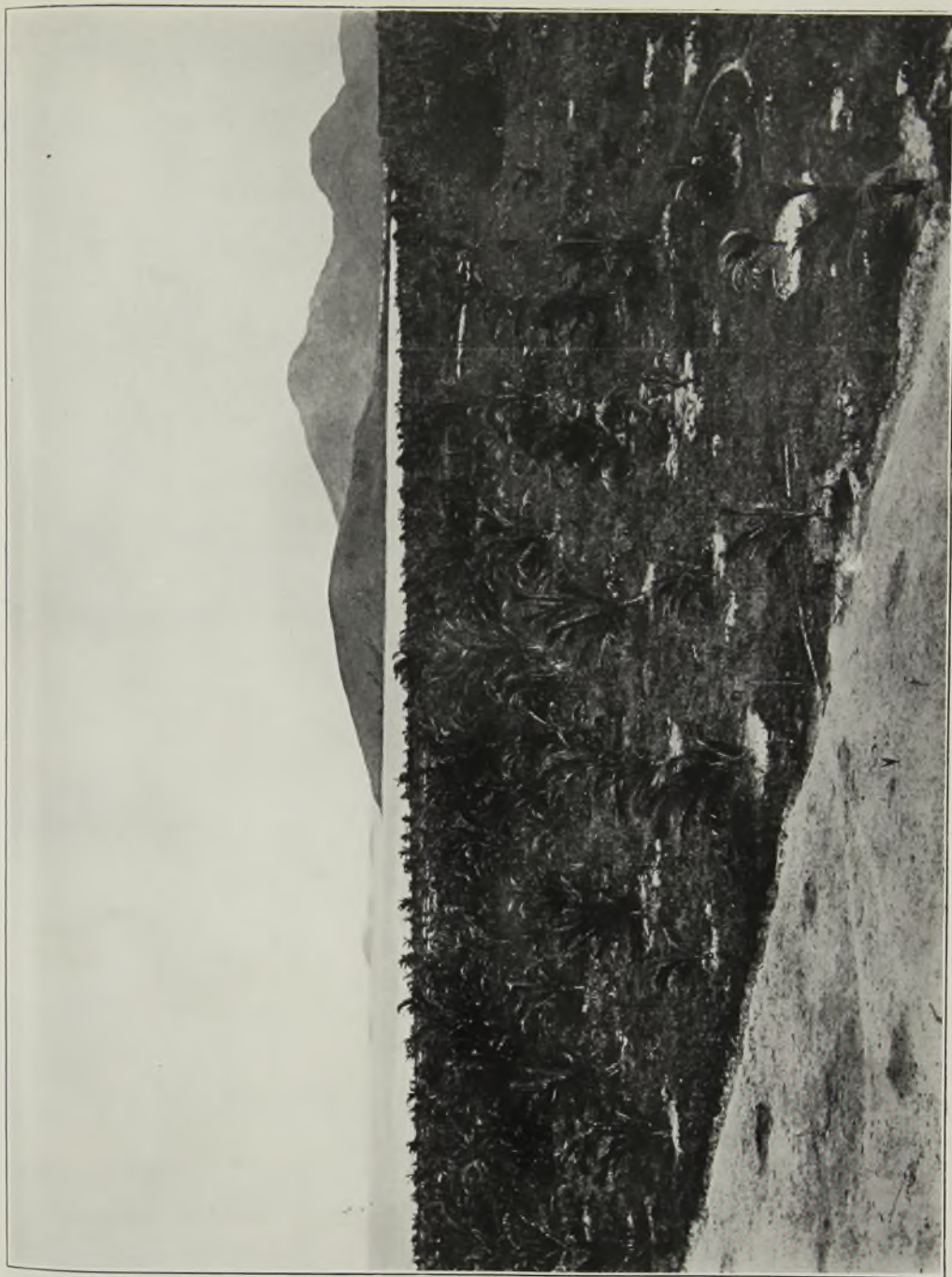
**I**N the February number of the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture MR. ORWIN and MR. ORR, of the Oxford Institute of Agricultural Economics, who were deputed by the Government to enquire into the question of the possibilities of

beet sugar production in England, reviewed the results obtained by the farmers working in association with the Cantley factory in Norfolk, referred to in our issue of March 9th. A further instalment of their report has now appeared in the June number of the *Journal*, dealing with the aspects of the case as regards the West of England, where, it will be remembered, the Directors of the South-Western Railway Company have recently interested themselves in the subject. The Report treats of the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and, as the conditions in the latter county are widely different from those obtaining in the other three, the reporters have dealt with it separately. There does not seem to be any prospect of sugar beet growing being established in either Gloucestershire, Somerset or Devon. It is not that the sugar beet is unsuited to the soil, for much experimental beet growing has been carried on during the last few years with satisfactory results as regards yield, but that economic considerations do not warrant its cultivation in preference to any of the existing forms of agriculture. The farmers appear to have reaped on the average 15 tons of washed beet to the acre, a high yield compared with that of the Continent and the East Coast. As, however, the farmers seem to have been able to obtain 50 to 80 tons of mangolds from the same description of soil, even in times of peace this relation of yield would be much in favour of the mangolds, and in war times, when the value of cattle feeding stuffs has increased in a higher ratio than that of beets for sugar making, mangolds being stated to have been sold at Bristol at as much as 20/- per ton, this advantage is intensified. The arable is in small proportion to the pasture land in these counties, but has already been increased for the growth of corn. As these are essentially grazing counties, this reduction of pasture land renders it all the more important to provide roots for the cattle in the form of mangold and other root-crops. At the present moment also, labour is extremely scarce, and this in itself almost renders the growing of beet for sugar making out of the question. In Cornwall, however, MR. ORWIN and MR. ORR consider that the conditions are quite different, not only from those of the above counties, but also as compared with Norfolk and Suffolk, and are in favour of beet sugar growing. It is pointed out that the holdings are small and either arable, or of mixed dairy and arable. These are largely devoted to market garden crops, such as early potatoes and broccoli, the prices of which have not gone up as those for corn, mutton, and even dairy products have. The labour question, also, does not come into the case, as the present cultivation requires much the same amount of labour as does that of the sugar beet. The farmers are also more accustomed to deal with transport difficulties, and are also more used to co-operation and organization. In fact, the opinion is expressed that in Cornwall the great cohesion among the farmers is a guarantee that if the industry were taken up "they would work definitely with the

object of making it successful" and further that, as compared with Norfolk and Suffolk, the labour difficulties would be less, while the yield of the crop would probably be more certain. It is concluded that neither in Gloucester, Somerset, nor Devon would it be wise or practicable to consider the erection of a factory at the present time, but for the reasons given, the situation is much more ripe in Cornwall. "Capitalists who take this view might with advantage co-operate with the farmers whose interests make it most worth while to introduce this industry, for there is no doubt that some day British agriculture will obtain a footing on the sugar market." We quite agree with this opinion, taking the word "British" in its full Imperial sense; but we feel confident that, whether the sugar be of home or of colonial manufacture, or of both, the question of a British sugar supply to Great Britain depends upon the future fiscal action of the British Government. Without wishing in any way to depreciate the value of the work which MR. ORWIN and MR. ORR are doing, we cannot help pointing out that the attention of these gentlemen appears to have been directed to the subject mainly from the point of view of the conditions now prevailing rather than of those which may be expected to obtain when peace is restored. To speak of the erection of factories at the present moment, when neither labour nor materials are obtainable, is obviously useless. What is wanted from these experts in agricultural economics is their opinion as to the advisability of establishing a beet sugar industry in this country based on peace prices, supply of labour and normal economic conditions generally, and we trust that before their Report is concluded this will be given.

#### THE WEST INDIES AND WIRELESS.

**F**OR some time past it has been possible to send telegraphic messages to Canada and the United States by wireless, at rates below the ordinary cable rates. Up to now, however, for various reasons, it has been impossible to send messages from the West Indies in the transmission of which Trans-Atlantic wireless plays a part, one of them being that the Government was not in favour of rates being quoted unless they could be put in force in both directions. The value of wireless methods of telegraphy has been so demonstrated of late years, and especially since the war commenced, that much prejudice as to the reliability of the system has been overcome, and as the result of negotiations which were brought to a successful conclusion by the Marconi Company on the 20th ult., the co-operation of the existing West Indian telegraphic interests have been secured and the facilities to which we refer have become available to the public. The wireless portion of the route will be from Clifden, in Ireland, to Glace Bay, in Canada. Thence the messages will be conveyed by the landline systems of the Canadian Pacific Railway direct to Halifax, and there transferred to the existing Bermuda route. In order to secure the



A COCO-NUT ESTATE IN ANTIGUA.

From a Photograph by Mr. José Anjo.

transmission of telegrams from the Islands to the United Kingdom at the lower rates they must be marked "1/4 Bermuda—Marconi," this instruction not being charged for. The rates will be 4d. per word less than the all-cable rates for ordinary, and 2d. per word less for deferred telegrams, the saving being entirely due to the difference in the cost of the wireless portion of the transmission. The Press rate will be 7d. a word for Bermuda, Turks Island and Jamaica, and 1/2 for the other West Indian Islands and British Guiana. As all the authorised codes and registered code addresses can be used, customers enjoy the same facilities as with the all-cable routes at a reduced price. There has been a belief that the wireless method of telegraphy must necessarily be slower in rate of transmission, but this, we are given to understand, is not the case, deliveries being generally effected with equal speed by the Cable-cum-Marconi route as by the all-cable system. Naturally, regulations of the Censors must at the present time be regarded in the same manner as with the Cable Companies. Anyhow, the West Indies have now the advantage of a telegraphic service at a cost even less than the rates lowered last year through the instrumentality of the British and the liberal support of the Canadian Governments, and this, no doubt, will commend itself to those requiring telegraphic communications.

#### TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

WE are glad to state that since we drew attention in our issue of January 12th to the continued employment of German firms as agents in neutral countries by various British Insurance Companies, in nearly every instance a change has been made. On the other hand we are, however, sorry to have to add that we have before us a written statement by a prominent Canadian Insurance Company to the effect that as they have been informed by the Canadian Insurance Department that no Proclamation has so far been issued which requires the withdrawal of any agency of German nationality in neutral countries, they do not contemplate making any change in their (German) representation in Porto Rico. In other words the Company in question is content to make use of Germans in Porto Rico for securing trade advantages while the men of Canada are pouring out their life blood in fighting the Germans in Flanders!

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announce that the *Danube* will sail on the 22nd inst. from London for the West Indies. This is the first steamer of a provisional service which has been arranged pending the conclusion of negotiations between the Royal Mail Company and the Post Office authorities as to a regular service. As our readers will remember, the Royal Mail Company terminated their old contract with the *Victoria*, which left London on the 25th ult.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Passed by the Press Censor for Publication.)

Germany is undertaking not to sink passenger ships at sight. What her promise is worth the Americans may discover for themselves. For the word she uses is not "discontinued," but "suspended." Evidently the Germans desire to improve their relations with Washington in order to bring pressure to bear on Great Britain, helped to this conclusion, small doubt, by the failure of their campaign of submarine frightfulness. An empire which has committed the crimes which Germany has committed, not only against her opponents but against neutrals, and is yet able to command consideration from them, is no mean diplomatist. Both in diplomacy and war she is very far indeed from being beaten.

Since these lines were written further evidence that German promises and German practice are not the same thing has been furnished, the outward-bound Allan liner *Hesperian* having been torpedoed off the coast of Ireland. She carried 314 passengers and a crew of 250, all of whom have fortunately been saved in spite of the fact that no warning was given of this murderous attack.

#### On the Eastern Front.

Now that the enemy is in possession of our Ally's first line of defence, together with all the fortresses of Western Russia and Poland, and is on the point of securing the second line the Niemen and the Bug, the question is what will he do next? There are several courses open to him. The end which he has been trying to achieve since the beginning of the War, to break up the Russian Armies and defeat them in turn, he is still pursuing and is no nearer to it than he was last September. Failing in that the enemy may adopt a defensive attitude on the Niemen and the Bug, in order to hurl fresh forces in the Western front before the Allies' supply of men and munitions reaches its maximum. That, of course, was the original German plan . . . . . In the marsh region, which they are now approaching, the autumn rains are about to begin, with the rigours of a Russian winter to follow. Moreover, "with each remove they would drag a lengthening chain" of communications. The anxiety to possess Riga does not necessarily mean an advance on Petrograd. Its acquisition is essential to the operations of Hindenburg against the central group of Russian Armies, as well as to a movement on Moscow. Yet another design of the Germans may be an excursion to Odessa in order to link up Turkey with the Central Empires. For the problem of the Allies and the enemy is the same, to complete the circle of their communications. The one is fighting to connect Archangel with Odessa by sea, the other to connect Berlin with Constantinople by land.

In the north the Russians, who seem to have

large forces opposing the advance of Hindenburg, are making a formidable resistance to the occupation of Riga, and of the Dwina line. In Galicia, a powerful Russian Army, which recently retreated from the Bukovina, and has since been almost quiescent, is beginning to threaten the German flank.

#### On the Western Front.

Of actual fighting the British have done little the past fortnight, and unlike the French, who, when there are no attacks or counter-attacks going on, harass the enemy singly or in bands, our men are quiescent. The difference is due to the more intimate effect of the war on the sons of the soil than on the British, who are fighting their country's battles far from home.

Hardly a day passes without artillery or infantry activity in the Vosges, Artois, or the Souchez Valley, in which the trenches are half full of water; and at night fierce conflicts take place with bombs, mortars, hand grenades, and other devices of siege warfare which the world until now had forgotten since the Seventeenth Century.

In the Argonne the deadly struggle for the possession of this natural fortress rises and falls, but never ceases even for a day. The ground is covered by a vast forest which has been called the Thermopylæ of France. Its ancient trees are so interlaced with undergrowth as to be impenetrable, and take such strange shapes, as to be terrifying even in the daytime. It is intersected its entire length by a road, and every stream, hamlet, and open space in it are the scene of incessant fighting. In 1792, when the Prussians invaded France, they turned the Argonne transversely, but were afterwards defeated at Valmy. The Germans are endeavouring to turn it longitudinally, organising every scrap of the ground.

#### In the Dardanelles.

The intensive warfare in Gallipoli is greater than ever. The Turk has always been a dogged fighter, and is living up to his traditions, as he has not done since the defence of Plevna. But as the dupe of Germany, he is playing a losing game. After the Suvla Bay landing, though his main strength was developed in the Anzac region, he was able to prevent any material advance on the part of the British, and because of the standstill at this point the Australians and New Zealanders were obliged to fall back from the crest line of Sari-Bair range to positions below it. Since then nearly 900 yards of trenches have been captured in the Suvla Bay sector, and the latest news is that an important position has been won commanding the Biyuk Anafarta Valley to the north and east. This lies between the Yikghin Burnu (Chocolate Hill) and the Koja-Chemen. . . . It is the culminating height of the Sari-Bair ridge, and split in two by a fearful ravine. Once in our hands there is hope that it will give us the master hand. Only for the fire which swept the scrub on Chocolate Hill, and

drove back the New Zealanders in the four days' fighting after the Suvla Bay landing, this sinister height might be ours to-day. The situation now is that the French and British are working up the slopes of Achi Baba on the south, while on the extreme British left the Australians and New Zealanders are menacing the Turkish flank. They have joined hands with the new British and Australasian forces at Suvla Bay, and together they are now attacking the Sari Bair hills from two sides. Though the ground is as broken by nullahs and dongas, as in other points of the peninsula, it is not so well prepared for defence as in Achi Baba, and the wings of the British forces have space in which to manœuvre instead of being closed in by the sea. The Koja Chemen crest not only commands the town of Midos and the Narrows, but the only land line of communication between Constantinople and Gallipoli by land. But as Sir Ian Hamilton warns us we are a long way from its possession yet.

#### On the Italian Front.

The pressure of our Ally's troops in the region of Gorizia has been increased. On Tolmino they have advanced so far that the town is now within rifle fire, whilst the Austrian trenches beyond are being heavily shelled by the Italian artillery. Italy's immediate objective is to rectify the frontier, which was drawn so adversely to her interests by the Treaty of Prague in 1866. By it Austria, though she lost Venetia, retained the Trentino, a wedge thrust into Italy's northern boundary that, had the enemy been able to take the offensive in May last, would have made it dangerous for Italy to concentrate or operate east of the Adige. In addition, the treaty left Austria in possession of all the passes and the heads of all the valleys on the mountain frontiers of Venetia and Lombardy, together with the Isonzo, which is flooded with the melting snows during the spring and summer, between the Julian Alps and the sea. As, however, Austria had her hands full in Galicia she was obliged to stand on the defensive, behind permanent defences, which have been perfected through long years by well-directed science. These defences, further strengthened by an elaborate system of entrenchments, the Italians must take before they can assume the offensive. That the barrier forts still hold out when fortresses elsewhere speedily collapse, is due to the difficulties of mountain warfare, and the advantageous strategic position of the enemy.

#### Air Raids.

From Paris comes the news of a remarkable series of Allied air raids. The French squadron, which took part in one, consisted of 62 aeroplanes, the largest number of these craft which have, so far, taken part in a single attack. Bombs, some of them of large calibre, were dropped upon the shell and armour-plate factory at Dillingen in the Rhine Province. In the other great raid 60 British, French, and Belgian airmen took part, setting on fire in

several places the Forest of Houthulst, north-east of Ypres. The largest squadron of aeroplanes, until the recent record was established, bombarded the coast of Belgium on February 16th last. It consisted of 48 aircraft. Besides these extensive operations French airmen have attacked the enemy in the Woeyre, Argonne and other war areas, on a smaller scale.

Another British airman has a dramatic success to his credit. Near Ostend, which is on coast dominated by the enemy, Commander Bigsworth, single-handed, sent a U boat to the bottom of the sea by dropping bombs on it. The Admiralty's account of the feat was accompanied by a statement confirming the persistent rumours that the Germans have suffered "important losses" of submarines, though no particulars have been given officially. Mr. Balfour, again, in a letter to a correspondent, published in the Press on September 6th, referred to the losses inflicted upon German submarines as "formidable." Is the effective work which has been done by the Navy in hunting down these pirate craft one of the reasons why Germany is altering her naval policy?

No fewer than forty Allied warships shelled Zeebrugge, the harbour which the enemy has transformed into a naval base on Belgian territory. Many German soldiers were wounded, and a submarine shed, which had been recently built, was totally destroyed, as well as the vessels lying in it at the time. Damage just as considerable has been done here before, but, evidently, it is soon remedied. Nowhere has German thoroughness worked greater miracles of organisation during the twelve months of the War than at Zeebrugge. During the past fortnight five Turkish transports have been sunk in the Narrows, one by an aeroplane, the others by submarine attack.

(To be continued.)

WHEN salt is added to the soil, says the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture, it may act in various ways upon the crops. As regards its injurious action, when in excess it tends to form with the soil particles impermeable crusts, which interfere with the aeration of the soil. In addition it raises the osmotic concentration of the soil moisture, and so tends to make the soil physiologically dry to the plant roots, even while it still contains a fair percentage of free moisture. This effect is naturally more pronounced with freely transpiring plants than with drought-resistant ones. These two injurious actions will be feeble when the rainfall is abundant, but pronounced when it is scanty. As regards its beneficial effect, a solution of common salt increases the solubility of many of the mineral constituents present in the soil. Further, although salt itself is not generally considered to be a food substance to plants, it is always present in the ash, and since it is capable of influencing certain oxidise actions it may also affect the respiration and growth of the plant.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:

- Atwell, Gerald A. (of Barbados), the Royal Scots Fusiliers.  
 Beard, Lieut. W. E. H. (D.M.O., Jamaica, son of Mr. C. Halman Beard, Puisne Judge, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Brock, Clarence C. (son of Mr. W. G. Brock, of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Boyce, Second Lieut. A. W. (son of Mr. E. P. Boyce, City Police Magistrate, Bridgetown, Barbados), 11th Reserve Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders.  
 Cassidy, Lieut. M. T. (D.M.O., Jamaica, son-in-law of Mr. C. Halman Beard, Puisne Judge, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Chandler, John (son of the Rev. J. H. T. Chandler, Highgate, St. Mary, Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.  
 Cocks, Second Lieut. G. A. (of Knappdale Pen, St. Andrews, Jamaica), 14th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment.  
 Collins, Second Lieut. R. B. (of Constabulary Office, Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Connor, Major Jocelyn (son-in-law of the late Mr. J. T. Smith, of St. George's, Bermuda), Royal Engineers.  
 Cooper, Second Lieut. P. M., A.M.I.C.E. (of the Public Works Department, Jamaica), commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 Cowper, E. C. (son of Mr. William Cowper, B.A., Headmaster of Jamaica College, St. Andrew's, Jamaica), commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 Darby, Hugh H. (son of Mr. S. H. Darby, of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Findlay, Second Lieut. John (late Lieut., Jamaica Reserve Regiment), 8th Battalion Cameron Highlanders.  
 Francis, Captain Cyril G. B. (son of Colonel Claude Francis, late of British Guiana), 10th East Surrey Regiment.  
 Francis, Lieut. Clifford C. (son of Colonel Claude Francis, late of British Guiana), 10th East Surrey Regiment.  
 Francis, Private P. H. C. (son of Colonel Claude Francis, late of British Guiana), 19th Royal Fusiliers.  
 Gooding, Private W. Ulrick (son of Dr. C. E. Gooding, of "Stirling," Barbados), 28th Reserve Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.  
 Gordon, Second Lieut. Archie (of Kingston, Jamaica), 1st Battalion, Staffordshire Regiment.  
 Hearne, M. V. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Hearne, H. H. (of Kingston, Jamaica), 27th Reserve Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers.  
 Ince, A. Courtenay (son of Mr. James E. Ince, of Adams Castle, Barbados), 28th Reserve Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.  
 Jacobs, Leslie C. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Johns, V. E. (of the General Post Office, Kingston, Jamaica, son of Rev. M. F. Johns, of Manchester, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Kemble, Second Lieut. C. S. (son of Mr. Fred Kemble, Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Laidman, Karl E. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Linden, Lieut. Garnet H. (son-in-law of Mr. Mowbray Iver, of Mount Olivet, Jamaica), South Staffordshire Regiment.  
 Linton, A. Cyril (son of Mr. Arthur Linton, of the P.W.D., St. Andrew's, Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.  
 Milne, Ainslie C. (son of the late Mr. A. Milne, B.A., Headmaster of the New Collegiate School, Kingston, Jamaica), Remounts Depot, Canadian Army Service Corps, Second Canadian Contingent.

Norton, Dr. F. (Health Officer, Morant Bay, Jamaica), French Red Cross.  
 Riddel, G. S. St. Elmo (of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Pawsey, Maxwell (son of Mr. Alfred Pawsey, J.P., Jamaica) commission in Kitchener's Army.  
 Shackleton, Lieut. T. F. (of the Asylum, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Shirley, A. E. B. (of the General Post Office, Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.  
 Smythe, St. John (of Kingston, Jamaica), 28th Artists' Rifles.  
 Stenhouse, Major G. L. (son-in-law of the late Dr. Arthur Saunders, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Garrison Artillery.  
 Tilley, Second Lieut. Harold (son-in-law of Mr. Lewis Anderson, of Jamaica), 112th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.  
 Trevor, Col. H. O. (served in Jamaica), Assistant Director of Medical Service, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Williams, D. A. Laselve (of Kingston, Jamaica), Kitchener's Army.

### Killed in Action.

ORME ROETT, of Barbados, who joined the Canadian Contingent soon after the outbreak of War, should have been included in an earlier list of those killed in action. He was the son of Dr. C. F. Roett, of Barbados, and was educated at Conbernere School in that island.

PRIVY W. H. F. PERCIVAL ("Jack"), of the 4th Battalion Royal Scots, who was killed at the Dardanelles, was the son of Mr. H. G. Percival, of Antigua. He left Antigua some years ago to take up engineering as a profession, and entered the works of Messrs. J. McNeil & Co. Mr. Percival was a young man of much promise and appreciated by all who knew him.

SECOND LIEUTENANT THOMAS WOOD RUTHERFORD, who, we regret to state, was killed in action at the Dardanelles on August 22nd, was the only son of Mr. Robert Rutherford, Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, and of Mrs. Rutherford, of Fairholme, Millway, Reigate. He was educated at Dulwich College, where he distinguished himself by winning the 100-yards race at every age from thirteen upwards, including the competition open to the whole school. After leaving, he embarked on the profession of engineering, serving an apprenticeship with Messrs. Richardson, Westgarth & Co. at Hartlepool. From there he proceeded to Glasgow University, where he got his Blue for Rugby Football. After completing his studies he was employed at Govan by Messrs. John McNeil & Co., for whom he went out to the Philippine Islands to superintend the erection of a sugar factory early in 1913, having previously gained practical experience of such work in Barbados, British West Indies, in 1912-13. He returned from the Philippines at the outbreak of war and joined the Public Schools and University Battalion at Epsom. In November he was granted a commission in the 11th A.P.W.O. Yorkshire Regiment at Darlington, from which he was transferred in June to the 6th Battalion, with which he left for the Dardanelles on July 1st. In Barbados, as elsewhere, Tom Rutherford made a host of friends, by whom he will be much missed. Lieut.-Colonel R. L. Aspinall, D.S.O., now commanding the 11th (Service) Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, writes: "As former commanding officer of the Battalion from which Lieut. T. Rutherford received his orders to proceed on service overseas, I should like to pay a tribute to his memory. His comrades of every rank in the 11th A.P.W.O. Yorkshire Regiment will have received, as I did, with very deep regret the sad news of his death. Among the first officers to join the Battalion on its formation, Tom Rutherford became one of its institutions. As a platoon commander he soon obtained the confidence and affection of his men, possessed as he was of the gift of ability to instruct and power to lead. He next assumed duties as scoutmaster, which gave scope to his great versatility and ingenuity. His next rôle was that of assistant instructor to a brigade class in field sketching, his talent in map-drawing having been brought to the notice of the General Officer Command-

ing the Brigade. His never-failing good spirits earned for him many friends. Amongst his fellow-officers, as amongst his men, he was a great favourite. His geniality and musical talents did much to consolidate the camaraderie which became the characteristic of the mess of the Green Howards, and his musical sketches were a feature of every 'guest night.' He was also a caricaturist of no mean merit. I can say with confidence that his former brother officers will share the deep regret which I feel at the loss of so good a comrade as Tom Rutherford, and that they will join with me in expressing sincere sympathy with his parents and relatives."

### Died on Service.

LIEUTENANT GILBERT ELLIOTT, R.A.M.C., of Grenada, British West Indies, has, we regret to say, died at Winchester.

### Wounded.

de Pass, Lieut. E. A. (son of Mr. E. A. de Pass, of the Executive of the West India Committee), of the 3rd County of London Yeomanry, was wounded on August 21st at the Dardanelles.  
 Disney, Captain Gervase, of the 6th Essex Regiment, was severely wounded in both knees at the Dardanelles on August 24th.  
 Goodwin, Alfred (son of Mr. George Goodwin, of Antigua), of the Canadian Contingent, has been seriously wounded, and now lies at Boulogne Hospital.

### Honours.

Second Lieut. Neville L. C. de Rinzy, 2nd Battalion East Yorkshires, was, it now appears, awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in leading a bombing party and re-taking a German trench.

Lieut.-Commander Houghton Douty Edwards, R.N. (son of Dr. C. R. Edwards, District Medical Officer, St. Andrews, Jamaica) has been granted the D.S.O. for special service.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Austin, Lieut.-Col. John Gardner (son of Mr. John Gardner Austin, of Emmore, Barbados), Ordnance Offices attached to the Australian Force in the Dardanelles.  
 Colburn, Oughton B. (of Jamaica), the Eaton Machine Gun Battery, Second Canadian Contingent.  
 Coe, E. H. (Assistant Master, Wolmer's School, Jamaica), enlisted in Kitchener's Army.  
 Disney, Captain John, Adjutant of No. 6 Infantry Base Depot in France.  
 Everington, Captain Francis E. (of Dominica), Army Service Corps.  
 Kay, Major A. B., Shropshire Light Infantry, commanding a concentration camp in the Isle of Man.  
 Lane, Captain R. (a member of the West India Committee who was in Jamaica in connection with the earthquake and fire litigation) has been promoted Captain, 11th (the Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regiment.  
 Roxburgh, Second Lieut. A. C. (son of Mr. Adam Roxburgh, J.P., of St. Ann's, Jamaica), Notts Yeomanry.  
 Wildy, Second Lieut. Hugh F. (of Nevis), Army Service Corps, Motor Transport.  
 Wilson, Lieut. Roy (son of the late Mr. Robert Wilson), 2/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. *At the Dardanelles.*

### Bahamas and the War.

Armbrister, Private Cyril Edward (son of the late Hon. W. E. Armbrister, Member of Executive Council, President Legislative Council), 54th Battalion Kootenay Regiment.  
 Burnside, George (son of Mr. F. A. Burnside). *Regiment not known.*



Crawford, Robert Henry Campbell (son of Mr. R. H. C. Crawford, Commandant of Police), midshipman, Royal Naval Reserve.

Curry, Alfred (son of Mr. Adolphus Curry, shipbuilder, etc., Rock Sound, Eleuthera, Bahamas), 1st Canadian Contingent.

Johnstone, Private Robert O. S. (son of Sir R. Johnstone, recently Chief Justice of Grenada, and for many years Magistrate, Bahamas,) Honourable Artillery Company.

Kemp, Private George (son of the late Mr. R. Kemp), 24th Victoria Rifles, Canadian Contingent.

Menendez, Second Lieut. Frank Tremar Sibby (son of Mr. F. M. Menendez, member of the Legislative Council), 11th (Service) Battalion Yorkshire and Lancaster Regiment.

Sears, Gunner Edward Devit (son of the late Mr. E. L. Sears), H.O. Staff, 7th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

### Killed in Action (Bahamas).

PRIVATE HAROLD BROWN (son of Sir Joseph Brown, President of the Legislative Council), 1st Canadian Contingent.

PRIVATE JOHN WESLEY KNOWLES (son of Mr. J. J. Watson Knowles, J.P.), Yorkshire Regiment.

LANCE-CORPORAL ROY SEARS (son of the late Mr. E. L. Sears, and brother of Gunner E. D. Sears, of the Canadian Field Artillery), 1st Canadian Contingent.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### X—QUEENSLAND FAVOURS A PREFERENCE.

To the replies to the question as to what possibilities there are of an extension of the British sugar industry within the Empire, already published in these columns, the following letters from the Queensland Government Agents can now be added :

409 & 410, Strand,  
London, W.C.  
24th June, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 9th April\* last and previous correspondence, I beg to enclose, for your information, copy of a memorandum by the General Superintendent of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, which has been received from the Department of Agriculture and Stock, Brisbane.

Yours faithfully, P. J. DILLON,  
Secretary.

The Secretary, The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

#### EXTENSION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY IN QUEENSLAND.

The question put to Major Sir Thomas Robinson, Agent-General for Queensland, by the West India Committee reads as follows :—

"What room is there for the extension of the Sugar Industry in Queensland, that is to say, what area is available for cane cultivation and what quantity of sugar could be produced under favourable conditions with the existing sources of labour supply?"

In reply to this query it may be said that there is room for a great expansion of the sugar industry in Queensland,

\*This letter, which is not published, stated that the Committee's enquiry had been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture and Stock in Queensland.

as far as land suitable for cane growing is concerned, and taking into account the existing sources of labour supply. Under present circumstances, however, such expansion is strictly limited to the overtaking of the consumption of sugar in the Australian Commonwealth. Under the legislation governing the Queensland Sugar Industry, cane must be grown and harvested with "white labour" at a comparatively high cost. It would therefore be impossible to export any large surplus in normal times, as such sugar could not compete with that cheaply produced by coloured labour. The only solutions to this difficulty that have been mentioned are :—

(a) Imperial Federation, which would protect sugar grown within the Empire by levying duties against outside countries; and

(b) Payment of an export bonus by the Commonwealth Treasury or by tax upon the Australian consumers of sugar.

The present consumption of Sugar in Australia is stated at about 250,000 tons, and is yearly increasing.

	Tons.
The yearly consumption from 1901 to 1910 was	211,311
Average yearly output same period in Queensland	144,347

Average shortage by Queensland during period 66,964

In 1914 (the record sugar year), Queensland produced 242,837 tons, due to an entirely favourable season.

Seasons of this kind, however, do not recur frequently, and during the present year (1915) particularly adverse climatic conditions are being experienced, which may probably bring about a shortage of 100,000 tons.

The Queensland Government are erecting two new large mills in the tropics which will be of great assistance in increasing the production of sugar.

During 1914 the acreage cultivated for cane growing was 147,743 acres, from 102,803 acres of which cane was harvested for the mills. This produced a yield of cane equaling 20.29 per acre, the highest for many years. It is roughly estimated that there is at least another 150,000 acres in coastal Queensland upon which it would be possible to grow cane.

It is estimated that the difficulty of export being removed, and with improved methods of cultivation, that Queensland could produce 500,000 tons of sugar.

16th July, 1915.  
409 & 410, Strand,  
London, W.C.

Sir,

Adverting to my letter of the 9th April last and previous correspondence, I beg to state that the following report from Mr. N. T. Easterby, General Superintendent, Bureau of Sugar Experiment Station, has just come to hand from the Department of Agriculture, Brisbane, viz. :—

"In reply to your request for advice upon the second clause of the letter to Sir Wm. McGregor, as to whether preference in the markets of the United Kingdom to British Colonial sugar would lead to any modification of the views previously expressed, I have to say in addition that when once the Australian demand has been supplied the only method of expansion would be by export. Any scheme of preference that would allow this to be done at a profit would undoubtedly lead to a great expansion of the industry within the limits indicated in the last paragraph of the memorandum already forwarded."

Yours faithfully, P. J. DILLON,  
Secretary.

The Secretary, The West India Committee,  
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

## PARA RUBBER IN BRITISH GUIANA.

### The Local Cost of Production.

Mr. C. K. Bancroft, M.A., Assistant Director of the British Guiana Department of Science and Agriculture, in a previous article showed that an area of 500 acres could be brought under Para Rubber in that colony at a cost not exceeding £40 per acre.

He now, in the quarterly *Journal* of the British Guiana Board of Agriculture, provides further details in connection with the subject of the cultivation of Para Rubber there.

The experimental tapping, he says, first of 379 trees five-and-a-half years old and later of 300 trees six-and-a-half years old at Issororo Experiment Station, gives a fair indication of what the cost of collecting rubber from trees growing under favourable conditions will be. The output from 379 trees at Issororo between November, 1913, and December, 1914, was 597 lbs. of dry rubber, or a little more than 1½ lbs. per tree per annum. The cost of collecting was 16 cents per lb. dry. In the more recent experiment which is now in progress, the output from 300 of these trees from February, 1915, to May, 1915, has been equivalent to 240 lbs. dry. The trees are therefore yielding at the rate of about 2½ lbs. each per annum. The rubber from these latter trees is collected by one man and one boy working each one-third of the day. The cost of collecting is averaging 7 cents per lb. of dry rubber.

These experiments are on a small scale, but they afford a fair indication that under proper estate conditions it will be possible to collect at a cost which will allow of a fair margin of profit with Plantation Para Rubber selling on the market at 48 cents per lb. At Christianburg Experiment Station, on the Demerara River, 250 trees six years old have recently been included in one experiment. About 112 lbs. of dry rubber have been collected.

The yields obtained from trees growing in various parts of the colony indicate that 300 lbs. of dry rubber per acre can be counted as the return from trees growing on suitable land in a large area in full bearing. This output per acre would therefore, at an average market price of 48 cents per lb., realise \$144 per annum. With a cost of tapping and collecting of, say, 15 cents per lb., the total cost of collecting the output per acre would be \$45, and if other charges, viz., management, upkeep, curing, transport, shipping, commissions, etc., amount to an equivalent sum, the total cost of placing the output per acre on the market would be \$90. This would allow of a profit of \$54 or £11 5s. per acre.

Reference has been made above to the conduct of the cultivation under proper estate conditions. By this it is meant that the estate should be laid out in blocks (50 acres is a convenient size for a block), each being under the charge of a driver or foreman who would superintend the tapping, weeding, etc., of the block. Ranges should be in convenient parts of the estate, so as to allow labourers to get to work early in the morning. Houses for coagulating the

latex should also be placed in different sections of the estate so that the latex may be coagulated before being brought to the factory for rolling, curing, etc.

One man would be required to tap and collect the latex from at least 300 trees, each having two cuts, before breakfast-time (11 a.m.). To tap the trees on a large rubber estate requires a permanent labour force of about one labourer to three acres. When the estate is in full bearing little attention need be paid to upkeep, since there is little or no weeding to be done; and as the tapping and collecting occupies only half-a-day's work, in order to ensure an adequate supply of regular labour it may be advisable to give out, free of rent or on easy terms, cultivation plots adjacent to the lines.

There are three primary factors in the cultivation of Para Rubber: first the rate of growth of the tree, second the yield of the tree, and third the cost of production. In respect to these, Mr. Bancroft states that there is reason to believe—so far as the data at our disposal are concerned—that, providing sufficient labour is available for tapping, the cultivation of this product in the colony should prove successful.

## AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA.

### Cacao Industry Promises Well.

From the Report of Mr. H. H. Cousins, the Director of Agriculture in Jamaica, on the working of his department for the year ending 31st of March, 1915, it appears that the severe drought in the summer months affected all parts of the Island with the exception of certain favoured areas and of those parts of the Island where the cultivation was carried on on extensive lines. Both the banana and sugar industries suffered severely, and in the Vere district even the indigenous forest was a painful sight during the worst period of the drought.

Despite the drought, the development of the cacao industry continued, no less than 145,000 cacao seedlings being distributed from the Government nurseries, while the export of cacao amounted to 8,064,000 lbs. Mr. Cousins anticipates a great future for the Jamaica cacao industry.

Only 16½ million bunches of bananas were exported, instead of the 20 millions anticipated, the fruit also being greatly reduced in size and quality.

The Panama banana disease received close attention during the year. Out of the 30,000,000 banana trees growing in Jamaica in 1914-15, only 100 diseased plants were discovered, but it is considered that the presence of the disease is a source of danger to the industry on account of the carelessness and obstructiveness of the people engaged in the cultivation.

Special efforts were made during the year in connection with the growing of cotton. Sakellades, Ivanovitch, and ordinary Egyptian cotton gave poor results, but the Canto cotton planted on limestone rocks in Clarendon, despite the severity of

the drought, gave a remarkably good ratoon crop. Sea Island cotton had failed to give any profitable return during the past year, and the industry is spoken of as being in a depressed condition.

All the sugar cane experiments on estates were rendered nugatory by the drought, but the canes in Montpellier nursery afforded a most pleasing spectacle, D625, B208, and J72 all flourishing greatly. The value of the exports of sugar and rum in 1914 was £300,000.

A good average crop of coffee was recorded for the year.

### BRITISH GUIANA EXPORTS.

The following list of the Agricultural and Forest Products of the Colony exported during the year 1914 is taken from the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture. The corresponding figures for the three previous years are added for purpose of comparison.

	1911	1912	1913	1914
Sugar, tons	98,459	77,788	87,417	107,137
Rum, galls.	2,595,293	2,382,937	3,260,086	3,489,729
Molasses, casks ...	1,106	1,760	1,187	832
Cattle-foed, tons	5,556	5,116	6,859	2,426
Cacao, cwt.	798	102	505	577
Oil of Lime, cwt.	56	3	36	99
Coconuts, 1,000's	1,038	1,042	872	1,890
Copra, cwt.	1,415	1,149	1,127	1,690
Coffee, cwt.	927	1,293	797	2,105
Kola Nuts, cwt.	4	—	1	4
Rice, tons	2,538	2,721	7,709	7,090
Ricemeal, tons ...	1,364	2,005	1,802	241
Cattle, head	953	497	965	1,172
Hides, No.	4,517	4,230	5,106	4,646
Pigs, No.	1,148	1,159	1,604	1,303
Sheep, head	40	71	40	141
Balata, cwt.	10,289	6,296	11,817	9,131
Charcoal, bags ...	72,937	67,573	62,321	67,450
Firewood, Wallaba, etc., tons ...	9,866	8,759	8,670	10,204
Gums, lbs.	4,652	4,958	2,237	886
Lumber, feet	327,328	223,751	517,819	254,772
Railway Sleepers, No.	5,432	5,280	11,020	10,627
Rubber, cwt.	32	2	11	9
Shingles, thousands	2,500	2,562	2,645	1,806
Timber, cubic feet	234,003	284,530	437,111	212,418

### OUR ILLUSTRATION.

Great attention has recently been paid to the cultivation of coco-nuts in the West Indies, as the result of the enhanced commercial value of the products from it. Our illustration shows a plantation of comparatively young trees in Antigua, belonging to Mr. T. E. Peters, the well-known landed proprietor of that island.

"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are connected with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.

### THE POTASH FAMINE.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The locking up of the main supply of the world's manurial potash, the Strassfurt deposits of North Germany, has brought about what may be regarded as a potash famine in manurial circles, and compensatory sources have been looked for far and wide, with, it may be said, at present little success.

According to the Board of Trade, the German syndicate controlling the potash beds sold in 1913 potash to the value of £96,000,000, and in 1914 this amount would have been largely exceeded had it not been for the war.

Potash is a constituent of vegetation; in fact, it owes its name to the ashes of the wood over which the pot was hung or placed in the times of primitive cookery, but to exploit and burn large areas of woodland for the sake of the potash it contains would be a wasteful project, costly both as regards the potash and the future of Agriculture. Most rocks also contain potash, but it is only the slow decomposition of these by natural agents which can liberate it for practical purposes.

A natural source of potash which promises well exists in California, where there are lake deposits said to contain five million and upwards tons of potash compounds suitable for manurial purposes. But although much money has been spent in development, the project is still in its infancy. In fact, there does not appear to be any supply in the world immediately available to take the place of the German potash.

It is therefore of the greatest importance that in West Indian agriculture every effort should be made to conserve the potash of the crops. The sugar cane, cacao, coco-nuts, and cotton all require potash. As regards the sugar cane, the megass ashes should be collected and carefully distributed over the cultivation. The lees from the distilling also should be allowed to evaporate and the residues added to the soil. With the other crops, all decayed leaves and vegetation should be used for mulching purposes, and not an atom of the crop which is not shipped should be allowed to leave the cultivation.

Further—and this, of course, applies to soils which contain a sufficiency of potash, even if not in a readily available form, green crops should be grown where these will grow, and lightly dug into the soil. In this way the latent potash power of the soil will be developed and utilised.

The present situation tends to the thought that if our agriculturists are careful to re-utilise every ounce of potash of the crops, which they can do, with the exception of that which is shipped in the form of the ultimate product, and at the same time compensate for unavoidable waste of available potash in the way of drainage, etc., by the judicious growth of green crops, there would be little need for potash manures. There are very few soils which do not contain enough potash in some form for a very long period of cultivation and the amount

of potash required to be added should be very small. There is too great a tendency in modern agriculture to draw from the outside for plant food rather than to look to the soil to give it. The present potash famine may, therefore, be of very great service to agriculture by compelling the cultivator to bring up his plants on nutriment from the soil, instead of by the feeding-bottle method of modern manuring.

## THE FLY PERIL.

### What we should do with our Flies.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the commendable action of the Royal Zoological Society in calling attention to the danger of the common or garden house-flies and in devising means to combat it.

Early in the present year demonstrations were made in the insect house in Regent's Park, of which Mr. Maxwell Lefroy, formerly of Barbados, is Honorary Curator, and lectures were given on the best means of decimating the house- and blow-flies.

A pamphlet, entitled "Practical Advice on the Fly Question," has now been issued by the Zoological Society which, in the interests of the public health, should be widely circulated. As single copies cost 1d. only, while 100 are sent post free for 7/6, it is within everyone's reach, and we hope that hundreds of copies will find their way to the West Indies, where the fly pest is not unknown.

In this pamphlet we are reminded that all house-flies, privy-flies, stable-flies, blow-flies, and blue-bottles that come indoors are dangerous to human life and health.

They are not dangerous because they bite; the only one of them that bites us is the stable-fly and that doesn't come indoors often. They are dangerous because of their filthy habits. They find out and taste the excrement of men and animals, spittle, the matter that comes from running sores, from bad legs and inflamed eyes, the excretions of sick persons, mouldy fruit or vegetables, scraps of rotten meat or fish, everything that is nasty. They are equally fond of milk, soup, bread, jam, wine, beer, everything that we eat or drink, and they like buzzing round even healthy people, settling for a few seconds on our hands or face. Wherever they settle, they leave behind them traces of their former visits to filth, because their legs are hairy and some of the filth sticks to them, and because they are always vomiting out from their stomachs some of their last meal, to moisten what they are going to try to eat.

But even if people don't mind sharing a little filth with the flies, there is worse to come. Flies bring to you not only filth, but the seeds of diseases—typhoid fever, the diarrhoea that kills children, tuberculosis, the matter that turns cuts and wounds into putrefying sores, and many other dangers to human life. There is always some sickness near you, and flies will bring it to you if you let them.

When there is sickness in your own house, flies will carry it to your neighbours if you let them.

The recommendations for obviating danger from the fly pest are many and practical. The following points deserve special attention:—

1.—Keep flies from touching your food. Everything that you are going to eat or drink must be kept covered over, under wire-gauze fly-covers, with tight-fitting lids, or with muslin tied with string.

2.—Keep flies out of the house, especially out of the kitchen, dining-room, and sick-room. Curtains of reeds or heads threaded on strings hanging from a cross-beam, placed in open doors or windows, reduce the number of flies that get in. Mineral oil, such as paraffin, used as a spray, kills flies, but it is unpleasant and very dangerous, because it catches fire. "Fly-bane" is a mineral oil selected because it is practically non-inflammable, mixed with a scent that is not unpleasant to us, but repels flies. Used as a spray it kills flies or drives them out, if you leave the window open, and is quite harmless to anything it touches. It is not poisonous, but don't spray it on food unless you like the taste of scent.

3.—Kill and catch flies wherever and whenever you can. Fly-papers are useful, but remember that they are often poisonous. Flies like to drink, and if you keep all other liquids covered up, they will sip a poisonous liquid (such as milk and water with a few drops of formalin added) if it is placed so that they can reach it easily. A good way is to pour a little on a plate turned upside down, with a small piece of bread in the middle for the flies to sit on.

A tumbler half full of milk or beer and water, covered by a piece of cardboard or tin, with a small hole made in the middle, catches many.

A bit of meat attracts blow-flies; fresh beer, bread with a little wine and water or spirits and water (not too strong), and many other substances attract flies. But remember that you cannot expect flies to worry about going inside a trap to get at the bait if there is plenty of uncovered food about.

A bait that is even more attractive than meat or food, that has no disagreeable smell, is casein and brown sugar, made into a paste with water. This becomes attractive in about 24 hours: for immediate use, mix with a little stout or beer; for outdoor use, a little bread, and for indoor use bananas should be added. Put the baited traps in sunny places.

[Particulars are given of a special trap made by Messrs. Mappin & Webb which are said to be excellent for the windows of kitchens, sculleries, larders and hospitals, and can be easily fitted to any window, or to a door if a panel is cut out.]

But the chief thing to do is to keep flies from breeding. Although flies are able to travel long distances, they seldom do so, and most of the flies that pester us are bred quite near to us. Both blow-flies and house-flies breed extremely rapidly. They seek out filth, in which they lay eggs: the eggs hatch out into little whitish maggots; the maggots feed on the filth until they are full grown, then turn into hard brown cocoons out of which the full-grown active flies escape in a few days. House-flies prefer horse-dung, but will breed in any small bit of rotting vegetable matter, such as stale food or decaying cabbage-stalks; blow-flies prefer rotting meat, but will breed in human excrement, fish-heads, stale bones, any animal matter that is rotten. Privy-flies breed chiefly in cess-pools and earth-closets.

To keep flies from breeding, attack their breeding-places. The most complete cure would be to burn up all kitchen and house-waste, all decaying animal and vegetable matter. But this is seldom

possible, and in the case of manure would destroy a substance most valuable to farmers and gardeners.

All house-waste, potato-parings, skins of fruit, vegetable refuse, scraps of meat, fish-heads, and so forth should be dipped in disinfecting fluid before being put in the dust-bin. Ordinary crude disinfecting fluid in water (about 2 oz., say a wine-glass, to a pint of water) is sufficient. The "Map-web" Disinfecting Bin is a convenient device. It consists of a net-work basket hooked above a bin which holds the disinfectant. The refuse is thrown into the basket and dipped into a fluid; the basket is then allowed to drain, and afterwards is emptied into the dust-bin.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

### Interesting Results of Working.

The Report of the business of the Panama Canal for the year ending 30th June, 1915, for which we are indebted to the *Canal Record*, is especially interesting, inasmuch that it includes the 10½ months during which the Canal had been opened for ocean traffic. During this period the Canal was used by 1,088 vessels, having aggregate gross and net tonnage of 5,416,787 and 3,843,935 tons respectively. The amount of cargo carried was 4,969,792 tons, equal to 5,679,762 tons in a full calendar year, or 473,313 tons per month, or 15,530 tons per day. The cargo carried gradually rose from 111,284 tons by 24 vessels in August, the first month of the opening of the Canal, to 603,180 tons by 143 vessels in December.

Of the vessels carrying cargo—for there were in the 10½ months 105 vessels without cargo—no less than 97 per cent. followed one or the other of five great trade routes—viz., the coastwise route of United States trade, the route between Europe and the west coast of the United States and Central America, the route between Europe and South and Central America, one between the Atlantic coast of the United States and the Pacific coast of South and Central America, and one between the United States and Australia, New Zealand, and the Far East.

The bulk of the tonnage carried was by the United States coastwise route, and was represented by 335 vessels, carrying 1,846,658 tons of cargo. The next route in importance was that between South and Central America, 206 vessels carrying 947,871 tons of cargo having been engaged on it. The least frequented route was that between the Atlantic seaboard of the United States and the Far East, including Australia and New Zealand, which engaged 118 vessels carrying 725,712 tons of cargo.

Of the 530 vessels passing through the Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific, 233 were American, 225 British, 16 Chilean, 16 Norwegian, and 11 Danish. Of the 558 passing from the Pacific to the Atlantic, 238 were American, 239 British, 25 Norwegian, 19 Chilean, and 13 Danish. Of the total cargo, 4,969,772 tons, passing through the Canal,

nitrate headed the list, amounting to 651,948 tons, sugar coming next with 298,867 tons.

The tolls levied during the year, not including \$80,872.79 levied on vessels of the United States Government, amounted to \$4,343,383.67, while the expenses for operation and maintenance were \$4,112,550.48, leaving an excess of earnings over expenditure of \$230,833.21. These figures do not, however, take into account either the depreciation of plant, except in a few cases of relatively slight importance, the interest on capital, or an amortisation charge. A considerable part of the tolls will be refunded, however, on account of the ruling that the tolls shall not be greater than the equivalent of a charge of \$1.25 per net ton on the basis of registry in the United States. The stated profit will thus be wiped out.

The Report also gives some idea of the value of the Canal as a carrying medium compared with the Panama Railway. To carry the 5,000,000 tons would have required the despatch of a 350-ton train every hour and a quarter each way. The length of a train to carry the tonnage would be 2,142 miles!

Considering the War, and the infancy of the Canal, the results may be looked upon as extremely satisfactory.

## THE HISTORIC FORTS OF TOBAGO.

(Continued from page 380.)

By G. DAVID HATT.

The old French Fort is situated on a mountain 725 feet above sea level, about three miles from Scarborough. It is approached by a good road, which was first constructed by private enterprise and afterwards taken over by the Public Works Department as the outcome of a petition. This road crosses the Calder Hall river at Baséin, over which it is proposed to erect a bridge in the near future. This river, strange to say, is not shown on Byres' map of the island, and, curiously enough, it does not derive its source from a spring or from the main ridge, with its abundant rainfall averaging 84 inches yearly.

The Fort completely overlooks Fort King George, and an excellent view can be obtained from it extending from Greenhill to the east down to Milford Bay on the west, and round to Runnemed to the north. As it is one of the many beautiful spots that the island can easily boast of, it is hardly to be wondered at that Princess Marie Louise, who, accompanied by the Governor and her Equerry, visited it early one morning a year ago, expressed herself as enchanted with it.

The spot would be an ideal site for a sanatorium if a Government rest house were erected thereon. In this connection it may not be amiss to state that there are already several excellent rest houses, belonging to the Government and erected by the Public Works Department, in the island, notably at Roxborough, Parlatuvier, and at Charlotte Ville, right on the seashore of Man-of-War Bay. All are

comfortably furnished, and the last named is famed for its sea bathing, shooting, fishing and hunting which can be enjoyed in the neighbourhood.

The French attacking force, numbering 4,500 men of all arms, under the command of the Marquis de Bouillé, in 1781, entrenched themselves at the top of the mountain, a circumstance to which the Fort owes its name. They took possession of Mr. Cotton's house there, from which they made sorties and harassed the English until they capitulated at Caledonia on the 2nd June, 1781. The British force, led by Lieutenant-Governor Fergusson, did not exceed 467 in number.

Looking down on the French Fort from the heights of Caledonia, it presents the appearance of the bottom brim of an inverted saucer. The soil round and about the Fort is excellent, as evidenced by flourishing cultivations there now, and visitors to the entrancing spot need not suffer the pains of hunger and thirst, for almost on the very site where Mr. Cotton's house stood 134 years ago is an hospitable planter's residence, where a visitor never calls in vain.

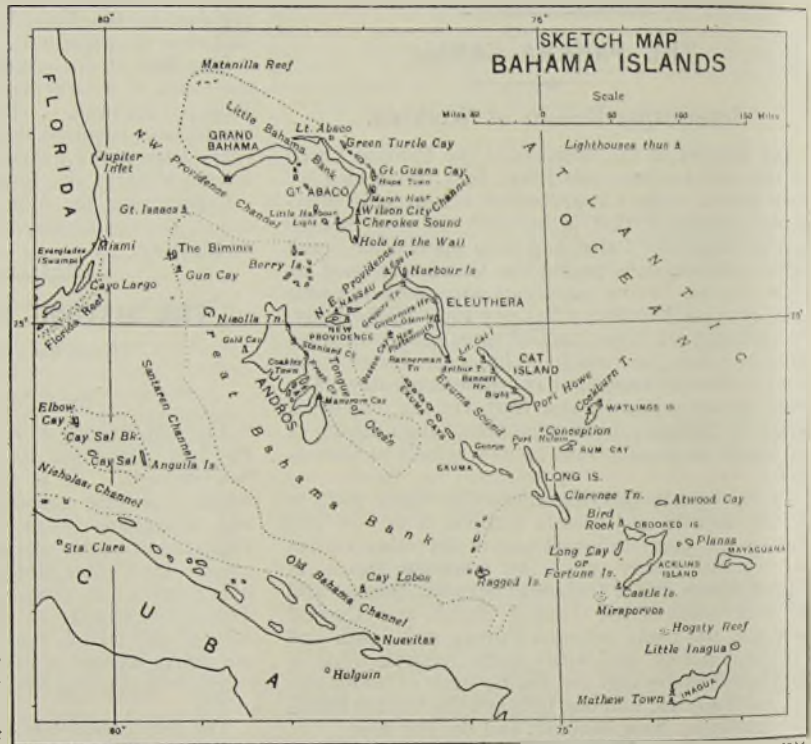
Of the remaining twenty forts in the island, history mentions that at Great Courland Bay there was one mounting three eighteen-pounders, and another at Black Rock. There was one, again, at Minister Point, off Bacolet estate big bay, and another called Granby Point at the entrance to Studley Park Bay. Dutch Fort, at Lower Scarborough, has for long been the residence of Mr. Samuel Dalrymple. The long chain of fortifications begin from Plymouth on the west and continue southerly round to Scarborough, then in an easterly direction to Spey Side and Charlotte Ville. The authorities would be well advised to collect the old cannon and cannon-balls and preserve them in the court at Government House, Mount William, the Commissioner's residence at Fort King George, and at the Court House at Scarborough.

In conclusion, it is a coincidence how the number 22 enters into the history of Tobago, there being twenty-two bays on its coast, twenty-two fortifications, while twenty-two years elapsed between the departure of the troops in 1854 to their re-arrival in 1876.

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### The Effects of War in the Bahamas.

The report of Mr. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Acting-Governor, and now Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, on the Colony's Blue-book for 1914-15, shows a set-back in prosperity, which is, however, almost entirely attributable to the War, a contributory cause being a prolonged drought in the out-islands. The revenue showed a substantial falling off, owing partly to the reduction of the Customs' tariff before the War from 25 per cent.—to which it was raised in 1911-12—to 20 per cent.



C.O. No. 34

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914

The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.*	Exports.*
1910-11	84,386	85,315	329,014	190,682
1911-12	85,592	82,676	308,726	200,251
1912-13	97,574	88,077	357,808	270,115
1913-14	100,753	96,496	398,224	265,954
1914-15	76,911	102,203	367,524	223,491
Average	£89,043	90,953	£352,263	232,699

\*Calendar years 1910-14.

On March 31st, 1915, the excess of assets over liabilities was £25,146, as compared with £51,915

on the same date in 1914. An encouraging feature is, however, that the Public Debt stands at £38,246 only and should be entirely liquidated in 1926. The Government has, however, been empowered to raise £30,000, repayable in 20 years at interest not exceeding 5 per cent. The revised estimate of revenue for the current year is £73,454, it being anticipated that the surtax of 10 per cent, now imposed on all Customs duties will realise about £5,000. The House of Assembly rejected a proposal that certain articles now on the generous free list should be subjected to the 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty.

The trade of the colony is mainly with the United States, who supplied imports to the value of £266,963 and exports to that of £111,124, the corresponding figures of trade with the United Kingdom being £77,133 and £35,822 respectively. Direct trade with Canada was quite negligible; but it is probable that trade is also transacted with the Dominion through the United States, which cannot be checked.

The report of the Chairman of Agriculture shows that vigorous efforts continue to be made to develop minor industries, including the cultivation of citrus fruit, corn, Sea Island cotton—which shows promise in Long Island and Exuma—onions (seed having been imported from Teneriffe), peanuts, peppers, pineapples, potatoes, etc.

The exports of Sisal fell from 7,249,496 lbs. to 5,481,857 lbs. and prices ruled low; but improvement has since been noted. Grape-fruit shipments rose from 565,322 to 690,699, though the value declined, and those of oranges fell from 622,257 to 313,715, valued at £173 only. An industry of great promise is that of tomatoes, of which 20,000 crates had been shipped up to January 31st, or as many as in the entire preceding year. The Board has fostered the industry, supplying seed, fertiliser (the local "Cave earth"), and material for crates. A new foreign buyer has entered the market and is doing his own packing in Nassau. The export of tinned pineapples has steadily increased from 27,536 cases, valued at £5,175, in 1912, to 33,070, worth £7,535, in 1914.

The prospects of the sponge and turtle-shell industries were blighted by the war, no less than seven-eighths of the exports having been marketed on the Continent. The sponge fleet did not set out on its usual December voyage, and the turtle fishing has been temporarily closed down. Shipments of pink pearls and conchs have also been suspended. To add to the difficulties of the Colony the stevedores, who used to be employed by the Hamburg-America line, have been thrown out of employment.

A useful little sketch map, which is reproduced on the opposite page, accompanies the report.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

MR. A. HOWARD has recently, in India, been investigating the subject of soil ventilation, and the results of his observations have been published in a recent *Bulletin* of the Agricultural Research Institute of Pusa. Stress is laid on the necessity for the aeration of the soil, and Mr. Howard considers that his investigations have established two principles—viz., that to obtain the best crops in the alluvium, great attention must be paid to adjusting and maintaining the proper relations between air and water in the soil, and that water, when it excludes air from the roots, acts as if it were a poison to crops. This has a most important bearing on irrigation.

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IN another *Bulletin* of the same Institution, Mr. H. E. Annett deals with the subject of the experimental error in field trials of sugar cane. He comes to the conclusion that in sampling a field of sugar canes the sample should consist of about 200 canes taken in groups of three from about 70 places throughout the area. These 70 places, he says, should be accurately measured out, and the three canes nearest to the measured points be taken, provided that such canes are canes which would be normally taken by the cultivator for juice extraction. When will our sugar scientists recognise the fact that the only accurate way of sampling canes is by taking the whole of them?

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THE June number of *The Perfumery and Essential Oil Record* has an interesting article on the essential oils used in perfumery. A process of extraction which requires little apparatus is given. A pure natural fat, such as lard, is melted in trays, and flowers are laid in the fat for a short time, removed, and replaced by fresh flowers until the fat has become saturated. The odorous bodies are then removed by extraction with warm alcohol. Olive oil is also used for such flowers as jasmine and violets, the flowers being saturated in the oil or placed on trays containing cotton or linen cloths soaked in the oil. The oil is then pressed out, and the perfume can be extracted with alcohol.

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THE subject of air curing tobacco as compared with artificial curing has been recently made the subject of investigation by Bernardini, whose results have been published in the *Monthly Bulletin*. He concludes that the artificial curing process does not produce any changes in the proteid substance of the leaf, that in leaves cured by this process there are none of the soluble nitrogenous substances belonging to the amino-acids which occur in air-cured leaves, and that in both the artificial and air curing the basic nitrogen contained in the leaves corresponds exactly to that present under the forms of nicotine and ammonia. The consumption of nitrogenous substances observed during artificial curing therefore takes place at the expense of the amino-acids, which are completely used up, while the proteid substance and the nicotine remain unaffected.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

BRITISH HONDURAS is included among the seventeen countries from which cattle may be landed at Avonmouth and Cardiff to be slaughtered on arrival.

MANY Americans resident in the Panama Canal zone are applying for enrolment in the American Legion. This organisation has for its object the enrolment of citizens qualified by military or technical training to assist the defensive forces of the United States, and willing to "hold themselves in readiness to respond to the call to its colours."

THE amount imported for home consumption of that insidious and pernicious drug, saccharin, continues to increase. For the first seven months of the current year, 1,215,401 ounces were imported, as against 889,597 ounces for the corresponding period of 1914, and 792,215 ounces in 1913. The first quantity only represents the displacement of 16,500 tons of sugar, but why should the British public be allowed to continue to be poisoned by the substitution for sugar of a body which is recognised as a serious anti-digestive?

IN the large market at Birmingham, plums have been sold recently for as little as a halfpenny a pound. At the same time that this cheap fruit was obtainable, the wholesale price of bananas advanced at the rate of 20s. a ton. The devastation in Jamaica, says *The Journal of Commerce* of Liverpool, is bound to affect the cost of the banana. Shipments from the island to America fell in one week from 404,000 bunches to 50,000. Fully 25 per cent. of the plants have been damaged, which means that the output will be restricted for at least six months.

IT is estimated that in Leeds and district alone 4,500 bunches of bananas are now sold every week. The bulk of it is West Indian fruit, as out of the 4,500 bunches only about 1,500 come from the Canary Islands. On each bunch there are roughly fourteen dozen bananas, so that in that city of about half a million inhabitants no fewer than 756,000 bananas are eaten every week. If anyone, says the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, should be curious enough to know the amount of money that changes hands over these 756,000 bananas, he can reckon it out for himself; the average retail price of the fruit at the moment is 8d. to 9d. a dozen.

THE boat which unships at Garston Docks, Liverpool, arrives in the early hours of the morning. Unloading begins at 7 a.m., and at 9.45 a.m. there leaves a special train carrying nothing but bananas for Leeds. The train reaches Leeds early in the afternoon, and by tea-time or shortly afterwards all the fruit has passed out of the wholesalers' hands into those of the retailers. The fruit, when it ar-

rives, is green and unpalatable, so the retailer at once hangs up the bunches in his specially built rooms, kept at an even temperature, and by the following Saturday the fruit is ripe and ready for sale.

THE Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company (Limited) announce that telegrams can now be accepted at their offices and be exchanged between the United Kingdom and Bermuda, Turks Island, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada, Tobago, Trinidad, and British Guiana at 2s. 2d. per word for ordinary full-rate messages, and at 1s. 1d. per word for deferred messages in plain language. The rates for Nassau, Bahamas, for the same classes of telegrams are respectively 2s. 2d. per word and 1s. 3d. per word. A service at deferred rates is not at present recognised by the islands of Porto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas, but the rates to these islands for ordinary telegrams have also been reduced to 2s. 9d. per word. The above rates are in all cases cheaper than those charged by other companies by 4d. and 2d. per word, and they will be notified by the General Post Office to all provincial offices in the next Post Office circular.

REFERRING to the scarcity of loaf sugar, *Truth* says: "English people are very conservative about their sugar, too, but perhaps the present scarcity in white sugar will teach them—or, rather, re-teach them—the virtues of the old-fashioned brown. It has everything except its colour to recommend it, and this is not the time to cavil at brown juice to fruit salad, or a yellow shade in the blanc-mange, especially as the taste is so good and the properties are so excellent. As a rule, the English cook uses castor sugar for everything except pastry and fruit syrups, and then condescends to Demerara. Her method is the most expensive of all. She neglects altogether the fine old-fashioned sugar—the kind that really deserves the name of 'moist' now given roughly to Demerara. Barbados and 'Pieces' are almost as fine as sand, but they hold together for sheer goodness. Pieces is lighter in colour and less rich than Barbados, and does not tint so deeply the dishes in which it is used. Barbados is delightful for pastry and cakes, which may be of a sunburned brown without annoying anyone."

THE *Westminster Gazette* also has something to say on the subject. After referring to the shortage of lump sugar our contemporary goes on to say, "We are again becoming more familiar with the brown sugars which were once almost the only kind procurable, and which gave a regular income to the humorists who talked of grocers sanding their sugars. That is a reversion to the past which is not altogether without its advantages, since it gives a decided fillip to business in the oldest of our Colonies, and at the same time brings home the virtues of cane sugar as opposed to that which comes from the beet."



## THE LONDON LETTER.

THE whirlwind campaign in favour of Conscription, which is being conducted by the National Service League, does not appear to be making the headway which was expected of it by its sponsors—the Harmsworth Press. At one time there was danger of this most important subject leading to a breach of the political truce. A note of warning against the perils of controversy, which was sounded by Lord Hugh Cecil in a letter in the *Times*, has, however, not been without effect, and most thinking people prefer to await a pronouncement from Lord Kitchener, who presumably knows more of our military needs than Lord Northcliffe does.

\* \* \*

LORD CROMER probably voiced the feelings of a majority of the people of this country when he said, "If he (Lord Kitchener) were to state publicly that compulsion is necessary, my belief is that the support of the mass of the public would be at once secured. On the other hand, I should regard it as not merely unwise, but practically hopeless, to endeavour to enforce compulsion if Lord Kitchener were to adopt an hostile, or even a neutral, attitude."

\* \* \*

THOUGH it could not be said that there is a scarcity of sugar generally, the supplies of lump and granulated are decidedly short, owing, as the writer pointed out in the Press, to the limited capacity of the British refineries. It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and the shortage of refined sugars is resulting in the more general use of muscovado—the old brown sugar of childhood's day—and Demerara. Now that the public taste for these wholesome "raw" sugars has been revived the producers must see to it that it is not allowed to fall off again. The desirability of adopting a judicious system of advertising to keep Demerara and brown sugar in the public eye—or rather in the households—at once suggests itself. To quote the *Westminster Gazette*, the present

"reversion to the past which is not altogether without its advantages, since it gives a decided fillip to business in the oldest of our Colonies, and at the same time brings home the virtues of cane sugar as opposed to that which comes from the beet. The satisfactory thing is the assurance that there is no actual shortage. There is abundance of sugar for our needs, but its form and its colour is different."

\* \* \*

THE excitement of filling up and returning the National Registration forms is now followed by curiosity as regards the registration certificates, which are being supplied to each individual. These contain a mysterious number which, apparently, has no relation whatever to any detail in the form sent in or to the status of the individual. There

is, however, a general relief among the fair sex that these mystic numbers have no reference to age.

\* \* \*

THE fall in the price of wheat, which has recently taken place, has given rise to considerable agitation among farmers in the direction of inducing the Government to fix a minimum price for this commodity, and the Departmental Committee on food production, of which Lord Milner is Chairman, has recommended a minimum price to the farmers of 45/- per quarter until 1920. To this Lord Selborne, President of the Board of Agriculture, is strongly averse. The fact of the matter is that it is now being recognised by the farmers that larger quantities of wheat are coming forward, quite apart from that which may eventuate from the opening of the Dardanelles, and they want a guarantee of profit before turning pasture into arable.

\* \* \*

THERE is, indeed, little fear of a wheat famine. In the first seven months of this year the imports of wheat into the United Kingdom were only 10 per cent. of what they were for the corresponding period of last year, while the price went up over 70 per cent. What is really required to give a full and permanent supply to this country would be to impose a Custom tax, which would not apply to Colonial, and, of course, Home wheat. This would give a sufficient stimulus in normal times to our farmers to grow wheat on soils suited for it, without disturbing the very necessary dairy industry; while it would give our Colonial brethren a justifiable preference in this market. There is no comparison between fixing a *maximum* price, as the Government has done in the case of sugar, and the *minimum* price as proposed for wheat.

\* \* \*

ONE great economy has already been effected in connection with the War. It has long been felt the price paid for billeting has been excessive, and a reduction of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day has been made. This alone means an enormous saving in the Government expenditure, and will probably be followed by very necessary economies in the official Commissariat.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER useful announcement which has been made by the War Office is one drawing attention to the tendency to slovenliness in dress on the part of some of our officers. This is particularly noticeable in Oxford shoes and permanently turned-up trousers which, however delectable in the habitué of Bond Street, is hardly in keeping with the tradition of the British officer. This may be a small item in itself, and as nothing compared with the great bravery our officers have shown as a class, but it suggests on the part of the delinquents a certain want of appreciation of the proper order of things which should be remedied.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Quillota* arrived at Liverpool from the West Indies on September 5th, and was followed by the R.M.S. *Danube*, which reached the Thames on the following day. The latter vessel brought the news of the almost sudden death of Mr. Louis Wharton, K.C., in Trinidad, to which reference will be made in next CIRCULAR. The following notes are taken from letters from our Honorary Correspondents:—

### ANTIGUA Public Ways Want Mending

Under date of August 5th, MR. A. P. COWLEY writes, that the weather during the fortnight had been favourable to crops. The promise for next year was fine, and a bumper crop was expected. The first of Antigua's young men to lose his life in the cause of his country has been Mr. "Jack" Percival, who has been killed in the Dardanelles. He was a young man of great promise, as straight as a die, and had been with Messrs. John McNeil & Co., the engineers, until the outbreak of the War. Another of Antigua's young men who has served his country faithfully is Mr. Alfred Goodwin, son of Mr. George Goodwin, of Dover Estate. Mr. Goodwin joined the Canadian Force and has been seriously wounded. The appeal case, McDonald v. Dew has been decided, all three judges giving decision in favour of Capt. J. T. Dew, thus upholding the judgment of Mr. Justice Walton, given at last Circuit Court. On Friday, the 31st, a deputation from the Agricultural and Commercial Society waited on the Governor to discuss the condition of the public roads of the Presidency, which, to say the least of it, are in a bad way. His Excellency promised to consider the proposals. Mr. Conacher has been appointed manager of the St. Kitts Sugar Factory and Messrs. Adamson and Spooner were returning to Antigua, the latter as manager of Bendal's factory.

### BARBADOS—No Longer Favours Subsidies.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., AUGUST 24th.—Barbados does not approve of the monthly service, but has left the matter in the hands of the Secretary of State for Imperial reasons. It is improbable that the Colony will ever again contribute to a mail subsidy after their experience of the recent one. The weather was ideal for the crops, the island looking like a beautiful garden.

### BRITISH GUIANA.—Patriotic Resolution Passed.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN writes, on the 7th of August, that the weather had been fair and bright with occasional showers. The Governor had visited Berbice, and inspected the new road up to Mara on the Berbice river. A public meeting had been held in the Town Hall on the 4th, the anniversary of the outbreak of the War, and a resolution identical with that adopted in other parts of the Empire passed. The mover was the Hon. J. B. Laing, the seconder Mr. A. P. G. Austin, and the supporters the Hon. C. Clementi and G. R. Garnett.

### DOMINICA.—Excellent Lime Crop Anticipated.

MR. R. A. AGAR, writing on the 6th August, says that on August 4th special services were held in commemoration of the anniversary of the declaration of War in the churches of all denominations in the morning; at 2.30 the school children paraded in the Savannah, saluted the Flag and sang patriotic songs, and at 4 p.m. a public meeting was held in the Court House, a building that was all too small for the purpose, to pass a loyal resolution, as proposed by the Central Committee for Patriotic Organizations. Mr. J. R. H. Bridgewater, acting chairman of the Roseau Town Board, was in the chair, and some excellent speeches were made. The Hon. W. H. Porter, I.S.O., made a timely reference to the splendid history of the old Dominica Militia, which did its duty nobly a hundred years ago.

The Administrator, in the course of his speech, referred to the West Indian Contingent, now being recruited, and for which notices have been posted about the island. This was, Mr. Agar believed, the day after the matter had been made public, and already some thirty men had sent in their names as wishing to join. All places of business, except those unavoidably kept open on account of a steamer loading for New York, closed during the afternoon. The collections in the churches were for the Belgian Relief Fund and flags were sold in the streets for the same cause.

The French cruiser *Condé* came into port early that morning, and was to remain all day. This was the first visit which had been received from any warship since the outbreak of war, and, in fact, the only one seen, as she frequently passes between Martinique and Guadeloupe, and always comes in close, which is a compliment which is appreciated.

The weather for the past fortnight had been much finer, a pleasant change, and the lime crop had begun in earnest. Prices, however, were not those of last year, though a substantial rise was anticipated as soon as juice gets on to the market. Forward contracts had been given at very good prices.

### MONTSERRAT.—Heavy Shipment of Cotton.

MR. K. P. PESCROUX had a favourable account to give of the weather when he wrote on the 6th of August, but said that the attack of the cotton worm was causing much trouble and expense. The R.M.S. *Balantia* was taking a shipment of 400 bales of cotton, the largest shipment ever made from Montserrat at one time. The rate of freight had been raised by the Royal Mail Company from 25/- per ton, their previous charge, to 50/- per ton. The death of Mr. Carl Hollender, of Waterworks Estate, had occurred as the result of a fall from his carriage. Mr. Hollender married Miss Kirwan, of Montserrat, twenty years ago, and had lately been residing on this island. His death was a great loss to the community.

### ST. VINCENT.—Good Weather Experienced.

Writing on August 7th, Mr. W. M. SANDS reports the weather as having been serviceable. A very successful Flower Show, organised by Mrs. Con. J. Simmons and a committee of ladies, had been held in aid of the funds of the British Red Cross Society, a sum of over £22 being netted. A number of young men had sent in their names to the Administrator as being willing to enlist in the West Indian Contingent.

### TOBAGO.—Trinidad wants Tobago Dogs.

Under date August 6th MR. DAVID HARR writes that exports for the first half year were valued at £42,348 as against £34,081 for the corresponding period last year, and £18,545 for 1913. These comprised, amongst other items, cacao, £22,888; coco-nuts, copra and coco-nut oil, £6,977; fowls and eggs, £912; horses and other live stock, £3,942; fruit and vegetables, £6,446; tobacco, £6,749; and bay oil, £5. An export that deserves attention is that of dogs. Last year 106 head, valued at £121, and for the six months under review 353, worth £105, were exported. These animals are used on the east and north coast villages of Trinidad for hunting, as, owing to the dampness of these parts, pups cannot be reared; hence the necessity of regular supplies from Tobago. Recently two groups of valuable cacao, coco-nut and sugar estates had changed hands, it is alleged, owing to the severe tightness of the money market. Given a clean slate and no extraneous burdens, all these fertile properties can be made self-supporting now, and more than that; they simply want fair play to make them so.

The weather for the first fortnight had been satisfactory, bright sunshine days and clear cool nights intermixed with rain, of which 3.77 inches was recorded at Botanic Station from 23rd July to this morning. An unusual feature of the prevailing satisfactory weather conditions was the absence, up to now, of the intense heat associated with the month of July, August, and September on to the 15th October, when a change to "cool" is due. The cacao trees are laden with young healthy-looking pods on trunk and branches.

the trees present a handsome appearance, and planters were jubilant over the coming crop in November which, owing to the lovely weather experienced, should be a record one. The health of the island was good.

#### TRINIDAD.—Great Manifestation of Loyalty.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes on the 9th of August, that probably the greatest and most enthusiastic public meeting ever held in the Prince's Building, took place on the evening of the 4th. The Mayor, the Hon. E. Prada, occupied the chair. A resolution of unshakable determination to continue the war to a victorious end was ably moved by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, and seconded in a magnificent speech by Mr. Aucher Warner. Similar resolutions moved by Sir Norman Lamont at San Fernando, and by the Very Reverend Monsignor de Martini at Arima, were carried amidst thunders of applause. The Legislative Council passed the following resolution at a special meeting:—"That this Colony having been informed of the acceptance by His Majesty's Government of the offer of a contingent from the British West Indies for active service with the Army at the Front gladly accepts the conditions conveyed in the Secretary of State's telegram of the 21st July and loyally embraces the opportunity to join with the rest of the Oversea Dominions in the defence of Our Sovereign and His Empire, and pledges itself to provide the necessary funds for sending from 400 to 500 men from this Colony and such further numbers as may be from time to time required to maintain that number at the Front."

The men were going direct from Trinidad, under their own officers, as the original idea of concentrating the various contingents at one colony had been abandoned.

#### MARRIAGE.

Wilson Johnson.—At Christchurch, Sunderland, on June 30th, Lieut. Roy Wilson, of the 2/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the fourth son of the late Mr. Robert Wilson, of Bantaskin, Falkirk, to Amy Dorothea, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson, of 2, Gray Road, Sunderland.

#### DEATH.

Bowen.—On July 4th, 1915, at San Fernando, Trinidad, Harry Townshend Bowen, son of the late Adderley Bowen, of typhoid fever.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

#### A Suggestion to Parents and Guardians.

Every homeward mail brings further orders for the West India Committee map of the West Indies. Several residents in the West Indies have recently ordered copies to be sent to their children at school in England. This admirable example deserves to be widely followed, for it has long been a subject for complaint that people in this country know so little of their oldest group of Colonies. All that parents need do is to send the name and address of their children, with a remittance, and the map or maps will be sent off immediately after the receipt of the order.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

### OUR LIBRARY.

"Timbers of British Guiana," by Herbert Stone, F.L.S., and W. G. Freeman, D.Sc. Published by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London. Price 5s. net.

This is a report on a collection of a hundred specimens of colony woods made by the Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., M.Inst.C.E., when Director of Public Works in British Guiana, and now of Trinidad. The book was published last year, shortly after the appearance in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of a series of articles under the same title, "The Timbers of British Guiana"; but there is no intention by the mere accidental clashing of titles to claim any connection between the two. The publication now under review is a much more elaborate and systematised treatise on the identification, nomenclature, and physical characteristics of the several woods contained in the collection dealt with, and is worthy of Mr. Herbert Stone's previous reputation as author of "The Timbers of Commerce" and the Imperial Institute's "Report on the Technical Tests applied to the various Woods of British Guiana." A commendable attempt is made to arrive at some agreement between well known and clearly defined local names and the scientific names of the various woods, with a view to facilitating their identity, a matter of some importance, and one which has been long urged by the Rev. Jas. Aitken, M.A., who takes an intelligent interest in the identification of the several woods of Guiana. Towards this end the authors have prepared two indices to their work, both arranged alphabetically, one according to the systematic and scientific names, and the other by the vernacular and popular names, which should prove most useful and helpful to all engaged in the timber trade. Probably many of the specimens enumerated may not be procurable in sufficient quantities, or within reasonable reach of market, to render them of practical commercial value; but the book is none the less useful as a *vade mecum* of the colony's timber resources. The timbers mentioned in the articles in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR were, on the other hand, confined to twenty-four of the better known woods of British Guiana, embracing those readily procurable in quantity, and thus of more commercial importance for use in constructional and manufacturing work.—L. M. H.

"The Gibraltar of the West Indies. A Chapter from British Imperial History," by G. H. King. St. Kitts: The St. Kitts Printery. (1915).

Whatever the attitude of the people of St. Christopher's may have been in 1782—and there is abundant evidence that the majority of them sympathised with the revolted American colonists—no one would venture to challenge their loyalty at the present day. This being the case, there is not a single resident in the island who can fail to be proud of the gallant defence of Brimstone Hill by Brigadier-General Fraser and Governor Shirley. For five weeks the garrison, which consisted of 600 regular troops, 350 men of the island militia (many of whom, alas, deserted), and a handful of armed blacks and sailors, withstood the attack of 8,000 seasoned troops of France led by a commander of valour and ability, the redoubtable Marquis de Bonille. Hood's brilliant action with Comte de Grasse on January 24th, when he completely outmanoeuvred the French fleet, capturing from them the anchorage of Basseterre, a feat which was witnessed by many spectators from the slopes of Nevis, failed materially to relieve the situation of the besieged, who, however, only surrendered when the buildings and storehouses had been wrecked and the garrison had been reduced to half its original number. The troops were granted full honours of war, and the magnanimous de Bonille allowed Governor Shirley to return to Antigua, treating neither him nor General Fraser as prisoners of war in recognition of their gallant defence of the fortress. Brimstone Hill, whose story is also told in "West Indian Tales of Old," was abandoned at the time of the Crimean War. It is now rightly recognised as a national monument, and its fortifications—most of which are of a later date than that of the siege—are preserved as far as possible from the ravages of the climate and of

vandals. It is sad to think that many of its guns should have been sold as old iron in a day when historic sites and monuments were even less appreciated than they now are in many parts of the West Indies. Mr. King has told his story well, and we can safely predict a good sale—especially among tourists—for this well illustrated pamphlet.

Copies of "The Gibraltar of the West Indies" can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d. each, post free 6½d.

## WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

### Wales Estate (Demerara), Ltd.

Registered Aug. 20th. Capital £100,000 in 2,000 5 per cent. cum. pref. shares of £50 each, and 6,000 ordinary shares of £10 each. Objects: To carry on the business of planters and cultivators of sugar, rubber, coco-nuts, coffee, cocoa and other produce, general merchants, importers, exporters, refrigerators, provision packers, and preservers, shipbuilders, charterers of ships and vessels, warehousemen, ship and insurance brokers, wharfingers, farmers, manure merchants, etc., and to adopt an agreement with R. M. B. Parker. The subscribers are R. M. B. Parker, Morley, Ware; and E. J. Hitch, 31, Fraser-road, Walthamstow. Private company. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than seven) are R. M. B. Parker and C. W. Prest, Clovelly, Beaconsfield, Bucks. Qualification £500. Remuneration £300 per annum (chairman £50 extra).

### The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The production of petroleum for week ending Wednesday, August 18th, was 891 tons, and for week ended Wednesday, 25th August, 887 tons.

Demand	Latest Quotations.	Sept. 6
4 %	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	111
4 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1924	111
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 %	Trinidad 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
	The Colonial Bank	76 9/100
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	80 1/2
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	87 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	86 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	93
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Pari. Preference	147
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	57 1/2
7 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	273-2, 6
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15% paid)	1 1/2
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	28
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	102
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	74
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	85
1 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	22 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. 1st Pref	111
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd"	111
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	99 1/2

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

## VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Major E. F. Becher	Mr. J. M. Fleming	Mr. W. F. Samuels
Mr. A. Campbell	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Cecil H. Chambers	His Honour Leslie	Mr. W. Smith
Hon. F. Driver	Jarvis	and
Hon. H. Ferguson	Mr. M. Moody-Stuart	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. E. Fitzgerald	Mr. A. E. Perkins	

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.

The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
Hon. P. J. Dean, St. Bramocks, Mundesley, Norfolk.  
Mr. T. L. Dunsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Rood Lane, E. C.  
Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex.  
Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

Mr. J. A. Gordon, c/o C. W. Stevens, Esq., 16, Great St. Helens, E.C.  
Mr. E. A. H. Hagart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
Mr. S. W. Matthews, The Plains, Wetheral, Carlisle.  
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
Mr. H. C. Morcom, Great Meols, Cheshire.  
Mr. R. S. Reid, c/o Alexander Reid, Esq., M.L.C.E., 355, Fenchurch St., E.C.  
Mr. J. J. Rodrigues, c/o Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons, 119, Cannon St., E.C.  
Mr. E. C. Skinner, c/o R.M.S.P. Co., 18, Moorgate Street, E.C.  
Mr. H. F. Wildy, 49, Church Lane, Hornsey, N.

REFERRING to the action of the Australian Government as to the compulsory purchase of Queensland sugar, the American paper, *Sugar*, says: "The sugar men in Queensland operate under a variety of difficulties in normal times, and during the extraordinary conditions now existing, when every other civilised country that is not actively engaged in warfare is expressing thanks that it is not battle-torn, and adding an especially thankful postscript if it has a source of home-produced necessities, including sugar, Australia seems bent on exterminating hers with even greater zeal than that which the democratic administration of the United States went at its sugar industry. But while the sugar industry of the United States went under the administrative axe in peaceful times, it was left for the Queensland industry to be hit at a time when even the former was considered worthy of being resuscitated."

By virtue of Rule III. of the West India Committee, the subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies :—

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), August 27th, "Weather dry"; September 2nd, "Weather very dry." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Fortnight ending August 18th; 5th to 10th, "Fair"; 11th, "Breezy"; 12th to 14th, "Strong gales, rains"; 15th to 18th, "Fair." Kingston, 5th to 11th, "Fine"; 12th to 14th, "Gales, rain"; 15th to 18th, "Showers." Trinidad (The Trinidad Estates Company, Ltd.), August 31st, "Weather rather dry."

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 98½ cum rights and 97½ ex rights. Old War Loan 92½. Consols 65.

**SUGAR**—At first sight it is difficult to see why at the present moment, more than a few months back, there should be a shortage of cube sugar. The two sources of supply of this sugar are the British and Dutch refiners. The imports from the latter source are continuing to arrive regularly; in fact, those for July were above the average, and there has been no diminution in the general output of our refineries. Either, therefore, the refiners have reduced their make of cubes in favour of granulated, or the consumption of cubes has increased. In view of the temporary scarcity of white Javas, it is probable that the former is what has occurred. The use of cubes is confined almost entirely to tea and coffee; in the preserving season there is a greater demand for granulated than at other times.

The United States beet sugar industry has got over its difficulty as to the supply of seed for next crop. This is entirely dependent on Germany for seed, and the British Government have now given permission to the American importers to obtain their supplies from that country, the first consignment of 50,000 bags having been already shipped. The reaping of the present crop is progressing satisfactorily, with good results as regards returns.

Messrs. Willett & Gray's latest estimate of the coming Continental crop shows an area of 1,803,000 acres to be reaped, as against 2,209,113 acres last year, with a possible production of 6,050,000 tons, as against 7,447,795 tons last season. Outside the enemy countries the production is estimated at 3,030,000 tons, as against 3,377,795 tons for last crop, the reduction being 130,000 tons in France, 250,000 tons in Russia, 45,000 tons in Holland, 42,000 tons in Belgium, 9,000 tons in Denmark, and 4,000 tons in Roumania and Bulgaria. Italy and Spain are estimated to give 43,000 tons and 49,279 tons respectively in excess of last crop. The deficiency of sugar available from the Continental crops for the coming campaign would appear to be, therefore, about 350,000 to 400,000 tons. It may be looked upon as an established fact that the opening of the Dardanelles will liberate no sugar from Russia for Western use, and that country cannot be considered a factor in our sugar supplies for some time.

In the above connection it may be pointed out that Dr Geerligns, of Amsterdam, considers that the Dutch crop will be quite equal to that of last year, instead of 17 per cent. less, which the official figures indicate. This discrepancy he states to be due to a large number of farmers not having contracted to sell their beets to factories, preferring to wait for the highest bidder.

With an increase in sowings of 4,000 acres, the Canadian beet crop will probably reach 15,500 tons, as against 12,504 tons last crop. The progress of this industry is very slow.

Owing to severe frosts in the Tucuman sugar district of the Argentine, the crop for 1915-16 is expected to be very greatly reduced. According to Messrs. Willett & Gray, the deficit is likely to be 130,000 tons, bringing the figures for that crop to 175,000 tons.

The efforts on the part of the Mauritius proprietors to obtain a higher price for the embargoed "vesou" sugars from the Government than that originally offered have been in vain. These sugars, which represent 80 per cent. of the crop of the island, will therefore be sold to the British Government at 17s. 6d. for 1st grade, 17s. 2d. for 2nd grade, and 16s. 10d. for 3rd grade. As it will not pay the planters to turn out the first grade at a difference in value of only 4d. per cwt. from the 2nd grade, the crop will consist entirely of 2nd and 3rd grade "vesous," sold to the Government, and molasses sugars, for the disposal of which the planters are allowed to do as they will. As the planters have received far higher offers from India and France for their higher grade sugars than the price the British Government is paying, it looks very much as if they were being offered up on the altars of the jam and

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to July 29		Jan. 1 to July 31		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar ...	49,974	43,594 Tons.	12,716	10,595 Tons.
Molasses ...		827 Puds.		
Rum ...	2,353,626	1,731,278 Proof Galls.	796,007	973,489 Galls.
Melasscut. &c. ...	1,073	1,054 Tons.		
Cacao ...	48,263	33,437 lbs.	6,463,632	6,553,904 lbs.
Coffee ...	146,269	238,746 ..	5,085,920	5,698,672 ..
Coco-nuts ...	1,120,514	1,186,671 No.	16,863,066	17,188,936 No.
Oranges ...			2,172,500	2,402,300
Bananas ...			6,457,707	11,140,320 Stems.
Cotton ...			28,990	32,607 lbs.
Pinnetto ...			36,739	60,923 Cwts.
Gmuer ...			8,119	16,584 ..
Honey ...			91,443	136,537 Galls.
Dreewoods ...			28,398	39,345 Tons.
Gold ...	33,418	36,136 ozs.		
Diamonds ...	471	9,055 Carats.		
Rice ...	13,890,996	9,483,023 lbs.		
Malara ...	853,201	379,661 ..		
Rubber ...	1,979	782 ..		
Timber ...	85,900	148,965 cubic ft.	Arrwt. 3,027,575	2,844,745 lbs
Lumber ...	53,355	206,737 ft	Cacao 102,151	136,819 ..
Line (rate of)	7,938	2,421 lbs.	Cotton 212,977	505,232 ..
			Seed 378,639	707,028 ..
Trinidad.		Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to July 27.		Jan. 1 to July 15		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar ...	37,847	36,970 Tons.	26,930	27,784 Tons.
Molasses ...	2,344	3,132 Puds.	37,843	81,982 Puds.
Rum ...	4,116	569 ..		
Coco-nuts ...	5,294,715	9,456,245 No.		
Asphalt ...	51,314	101,417 Tons.		
Mangak ...	313	164 ..		
Bitters ...	9,325	10,556 Cases.		
Coffee ...	10,240	13,440 lbs.		
Crude Petrol ...	3,623,041	10,299,104 Galls.		
Cacao ...	40,524,800	17,257,200 lbs.	10,106,510	11,766,060 lbs
Cotton ...			1,189	1,172 Bales
Seed ...			1,014	3,558 Bales.
Copra ...	13,561	4,556 Bags.	273	196 ..
Spice ...			1,211,705	1,189,535 lbs.
Kola ...			3,430	7,855 ..
Dominica.		Grenada.		
Jan. 1 to June 30.		Oct. 1 to Aug. 8		
1915.	1914.	1914/15	1913/14	
Cacao ...	484,064	474,320 lbs		
Time ...	35,119	27,308 barrels.		
Time Juice, raw ...	203,605	33,687 galls.		
Time Juice, concentrated	13,683	27,106 ..		
Time Oil, distilled	220	2,422 cwts.		
Time Oil, distilled	592	1,391 galls.		
Time Oil, distilled	157	395 ..		
Time Oil, distilled	22,911	33,573 feet.		
Hardwood ...	1,096	1,747 stems		
Bananas ...	236,906	269,085 No.		

KINGSTON, Jamaica, and Panama furnish the setting of a novel entitled "Susan Proudleigh" which will shortly be published by Messrs. Methuen. Its author is Mr. Herbert de Lisser, who has already several entertaining books to his credit, not the least charming being "In Jamaica and Cuba," which, we have always felt, deserves a greater circulation than its publication in Jamaica alone could give it.

lollipop makers, for whose use their sugars are bought, and who get special terms from the Government for it.

The recent hurricane does not appear to have seriously affected the Cuban canes, and the accompanying rains have been of the greatest value to them. A crop of 3,250,000 tons for 1916 is now spoken of as possible; but the recorded increase in factory development hardly justifies this increase, except under exceptionally favourable conditions of juice. It must, however, be borne in mind that the present crop, in spite of the disadvantages attending the weather in the early part of it, and the poverty of the juice, will fall very little short of the previous crop, which was itself a record one, and with good weather between this and December a big output is certain for next crop.

The present Cuban crop reached 2,480,129 tons on the 28th ult.—45,799 tons short of last crop to the corresponding date. Four factories were working, as against two at the same time last year.

From time to time during the last eight months, purchases of considerable quantities of American granulated for this country have been reported from New York. The Board of Trade returns for the seven months January to June only gave 64,083 cwts. as the amount of the imports of refined sugar from the United States for that period, an amount which is confirmed by reference to the Statistical Department of the Customs. During August, however, large quantities of this sugar have been imported.

In the London market, auction sales of West Indian grocery sugars were resumed on the 31st ult. The market was very quiet; 725 bags of Antigua crystallised middling yellow were in part sold at 25s. 6d., while 440 bags of Trinidad put up were bought in 460 bags and 649 mats of Mauritius syrup were in part sold at 17s. to 18s. 3d. At auction sales on the 3rd, 500 tons met with good demand, and were mostly sold at quite previous rates. Demerara crystallised fetched from 26s. 0d. to 27s.; Trinidad from 25s. to 25s. 3d.; and Jamaica 24s. to 25s. Jamaica muscovado sold at 20s. to 23s.

West Indian Sugar statistics from January 1st to August 28th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	36,346	24,076	34,118	23,410	31,671
Deliveries ...	27,758	22,574	19,725	20,467	25,116
Stock (Aug. 28)	14,597	14,454	16,233	7,433	10,915

Considerable changes have taken place in the New York market during the fortnight. Starting on the 25th at \$4.61 for 960 sugar, and \$5.70 for granulated, prices for the former rose to \$4.77 by the 30th, that of granulated declining to \$5.55. A decline then took place in 960 sugars, and on the 4th inst. their value was only \$4.54, granulated remaining at \$5.55.

The value of granulated in relation to that of 960 sugar considerably diminished, due to the commencement of the Western beet crop, which goes into direct competition with the former.

At auction sales to-day there was a fair demand for crystallised. 6,874 bags Trinidad part sold at 25s. to 26s.; 1,095 bags Demerara were disposed of at 25s. 9d. to 27s. 3d.; 270 bags Demerara syrups sold at 21s. to 21s. 3d., and 375 bags Jamaica muscovado at 27s.

**RUM**—There has been little doing in this market pending arrivals and samples from the Docks. The market is strong, and prices rule high. The value of ordinary Jamaica is 4s. 2d. to 4s. 9d., and of Demerara 2s. 9d. to 3s. The stocks of West Indian in London on August 28th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	4,562	8,749	7,466	9,281	10,786
Demerara ...	5,330	9,720	7,845	6,693	4,763
Total, all kinds	9,810	25,929	22,757	23,597	25,297

**CACAO**—The market has recovered from the depression noticeable at the date of last Summary, and prices for West Indian have mostly advanced 2s. At auction sales on the 31st ult. a good demand was experienced. 2,100 bags of Trinidad were offered, of which 1,490 bags sold at prices varying from 81s. to 85s., including 861 bags of the Gift Cacao at 81s. 6d. to 82s. Of the 30 bags of Grenada

put up, 20 bags were disposed of at 76s. to 80s.; 47 bags of Dominica sold at 72s. to 78s., with 25 bags of St. Lucia at 72s. to 79s. 6d. Of the 613 bags of Jamaica offered, 295 bags were disposed of at 72s. to 73s.; 123 bags of Demerara and Surinam were bought in.

At auction sales to-day a firm tone prevailed. Grenada was dearer to the extent of 1s. to 2s. Trinidad "gift" sold at 82s. under guarantee not to export. Some Dominica fetched 78s.; St. Lucia, 74s. to 81s.; and Jamaica 78s. 56 bags St. Vincent were bought in. Some Java sold at 90s.

Stocks in London on August 28th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad	13,270	9,879	13,269	7,399	8,999
Grenada	2,104	8,649	5,239	5,800	14,572
Total, all kinds	110,297	93,201	80,611	111,081	117,735

**COTTON**—There has been a better demand for West Indian, and prices are firm. Between 400 and 500 bales have been sold since our last report, including Montserrat, Antigua, Anguilla, and Nevis 142d. to 155d., St. Kitts and Barbados 15d. to 16d., and Virgin Islands at 13d. The quantity of West Indian cotton imported for the year up to the 2nd inst. has been 3,992 bales.

**SPICES**—Values of Mace and Nutmegs are unchanged. Nutmegs may be quoted at 43d. to 53d. for 100/80's; 43d. to 44d. for 120/100's, and 44d. to 45d. for 140/120's. The quotations for Mace are: Good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 11d.; red to good, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d.; broken, 9d. to 1s. 3d. Very little business is doing in Ginger, demand being very slow, with unchanged quotations.

**ARROWROOT**—There are no sales to report. Quotations are quite nominal at 2d. to 4½d.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil Distilled, fair to good, may be quoted at 6s. to 7s. nominal. Handpressed is valued at 7s. 6d. Lime Juice. No change has taken place in the price of raw. Concentrated is valued at £30. Citrate £25 c.i.f. New York. Good reports have been received of the Dominica lime crop.

**RUBBER**—The market has been slightly easier for plantation varieties. Fine plantation is quoted at 2s. 4½d. Para remains steady but quiet. Fine hard is quoted at 2s. 4½d., with soft at 2s. 3d. The value of Castilloa sheet is 2s. 1½d., of scrap 1s. 6d.

**BALATA**—The market for block is flat and lower, with business done at 1s. 9d. c.i.f., with further sellers. West Indian sheet is slow of sale, a small business having been done at 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d. London on landed terms.

**COPRA** There is no business to report in West Indian. Sellers' price is £24 15s. less 2½ per cent., buyers' probably £24 5s. less 2½ per cent. The market generally is steady.

**HONEY** Prices unchanged. May be quoted at 28s. to 38s., according to quality.

**MANURES**—The markets for Nitrate of Soda and Sulphate of Ammonia are steady. The value of the former is £13, and of the latter £15. Ordinary Superphosphate is dear, and may be quoted at £4 to £4 5s. Concentrated has advanced to £15. There is good enquiry for Basic Slag which is difficult to obtain; value £3 5s. to £3 10s.

**WOODS**—Mahogany. Considerable sales of Honduras have been made, but the demand for lower grades has been restricted; value 5d. to 7d. Trinidad Cedar would command good prices if available. Quotation 5d. to 7½d. The quotation for St. Domingo Salignwood is 9d. to 1s. 6d. There would be a good market for Bahama Lignum Vitz. Prices range from £6 to £16.

**TIMBER**—Greenheart remains at £11 to £13 per load of 50 cubic feet.

**PETROLEUM OIL** has advanced. American 90d. Water White 107d.

September 6th, 1915. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

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15, SERPENTINE LANE,

LONDON, E.C.,

Telegrams: CAHR, LONDON

September 20th, 1915

### OUR KNOWLEDGE OF EMPIRE.

THE men of the British Guiana detachment of the West Indian Expeditionary Force are, from all accounts, winning golden opinions for themselves. From the inhabitants of Seaford they have received a very cordial welcome, and soldiers and civilians at that little seaside town are vying with each other to make the men feel at home in their new surroundings. The visit of so many troops from overseas will help to awaken a new spirit in this country, and it must be admitted that in spite of the great progress made in recent years, the people of England are still lamentably ignorant about our Empire. In the schools, the history of Europe is drubbed into the heads of the rising generation to the exclusion of that of our Imperial possessions, with the result that a lamentable ignorance prevails with regard to the latter. The geography of Empire, too, is hopelessly neglected, the chief offenders in this respect being our great Public Schools. It is not surprising, then, to learn that so little is known of the British West Indies at the Sussex town where our men are now quartered, that the Vicar, in desperation, has appealed for a lecturer to tell the inhabitants something about our oldest group of colonies. The need for this will be apparent when we mention that one correspondent has already identified British Guiana with New Guinea, while another has expressed his agreeable surprise on learning that the men from the West Indies speak such good English! One of the troubles hitherto has been that the average textbook of the Empire has been written far above the man in the street. Most writers on Imperial topics, being saturated with their subject, presuppose a knowledge of it on the part of the layman which the latter has not got, and bewildering

ment results. We have now before us, however, a small volume entitled, "The British Empire," by SIR CHARLES LUCAS,\* who does not fall into the common mistake made by so many experts. The book contains six lectures dedicated to the members of the Working Men's Club, which is doing a splendid work. SIR CHARLES LUCAS possesses a unique knowledge of the British Empire, and in this book he tells his readers in a simple and lucid style the story of the making of England and of her far-reaching possessions oversea. In some spirited introductory remarks the author refers to the lack of the appreciation in this country of the realities of the Empire before the outbreak of war. It was steadily growing; but it was only half knowledge or less. Among a large section of Englishmen there was a suspicion of Empire, both the word and the thing, as implying jingoism, vainglory, and hypocrisy; hence arose the baleful term of Little Englander, of which we hope we have now heard the last. "Coupled with this, there was a feeling among some, at any rate, of the working men of England that the Empire was of no use to them, and that they had no use for the Empire." We warrant that this feeling was not shared by the members of the essentially loyal and patriotic Working Men's Club. The copious references to the West Indies in the index are an earnest that SIR CHARLES LUCAS keeps a warm corner in his heart for our oldest group of Colonies, whose destinies he controlled to a great extent when he was head of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office. He leaves little or nothing untold in describing the colonisation of Greater Britain, touching in that connection on such matters as constitution, immigration and religion, etc. In East Indian immigration he is evidently a firm believer, for he says that "In the coming time India may be looked on as a kind of Mother Colony to the tropical dependencies of the Empire." With regard to the Constitutions of the Colonies, he reminds us that the "Barbadians are for all practical purposes a small self-governing community with unbroken tradition of English liberty and English constitutional rights," a statement which will be balm to the inhabitants of our ever-British colony, who so much resented the misdescription of their status in the Colonial Office Regulations, which have now, thanks in large measure to the representations of the West India Committee, been amended. We hope that this book will be taken up as a text-book in the schools in this country, for it strikes us as being an eminently clear and practical exposition of our Colonial History.

\*The British Empire. Six lectures. By Sir Charles P. Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. Macmillan & Co.

## LABOUR FOR CACAO ESTATES IN ST. THOMÉ.

READERS of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR will remember that the subject of the alleged cultivation of cacao by slave labour in the Portuguese islands of St. Thomé and Príncipe, off the west coast of Africa, attracted considerable attention a few years back. These islands obtain their labour supply from the Portuguese colonies of Angola, on the west coast, and Mozambique, on the east coast of Africa, and also from the Cape de Verde Islands, but principally from the two first-named colonies. Recruiting goes on in these colonies, the labour is contracted for at a certain rate, and the labourers are shipped to their destination and supposed to be repatriated at the end of their term of contract. In the latter part of 1904, MR. H. W. NEVINSON visited Angola, and investigated the conditions under which the labour was supplied, publishing the results in a book entitled "Modern Slavery." In this book accusations of the most serious nature were made, and the impressions gathered from them were that, not only in their transit to the islands, but also while under control there, the labourers were in circumstances that recalled the worst features of the slavery system.

The matter attracted much attention, and was taken up by some of the principal cocoa manufacturers—Messrs. CADBURY, FRY, and ROWNTREE of this country and a German firm—who sent out representatives in the persons of MR. JOSEPH BURT and DR. W. CLAUDE HORTON to investigate the truth of MR. NEVINSON'S allegations. As the result of the visit of these gentlemen, representations were made to the Portuguese Government, who, in 1907, gave promises to the effect that the evils pointed out should be remedied. In 1908 MR. A. CADBURY spent five months in visiting the colonies concerned, and found that no adequate steps had been taken to improve the system, and early in 1909 the firms above mentioned decided to discontinue commercial negotiations with the estates' proprietors producing the cacao. The matter, however, did not rest here. It was taken up by the Press and in Parliament, and the Government, through the Foreign Office, made friendly representations to the Portuguese Government on the subject. There has naturally been much correspondence, the most recent of which—between the dates of December 21st, 1913, and December 2nd, 1914—has appeared as a White Book.

There is no doubt that the Portuguese Government has done a great deal to meet the views of Great Britain in the matter, and it is equally certain that their action was resented, not merely by the estates' proprietors and managers, but also by the governing class of St. Thomé and Príncipe. Even the British Consul at St. Thomé, MR. HALL HALL, thought that the decree of the Portuguese Government went too far. It "demanded," he says, "that the negro labourer should be treated almost as a white man," which he considered was not right, considering his condition of irresponsibility. It was not, therefore, surprising that when a "curator"—that is to say, an officer who occupied the position of our Protector of Immigrants—was appointed,

friction at once arose between him and the Governor of St. Thomé. To such an extent did this occur that the latter went back to Lisbon, determining not to return until the curator was withdrawn. In this connection it would appear that the curator was extremely unpopular with all classes, and it was probably the man more than the system which was at fault. Subsequently, however, another curator was appointed.

The correspondence does not deal to any extent with the treatment of the labourers while on the estates, and it would not appear that great exception can now be taken to it. In 1913 the mortality among the contract labourers was 1,010 deaths among 34,584 labourers, or 2.95 per cent. This probably does not exceed the general rate of mortality of the island. In fact, it may be taken that at the present time little or no objection can be taken to the treatment of the labourers while in St. Thomé and Príncipe, and the whole question is now centred on the subject of repatriation.

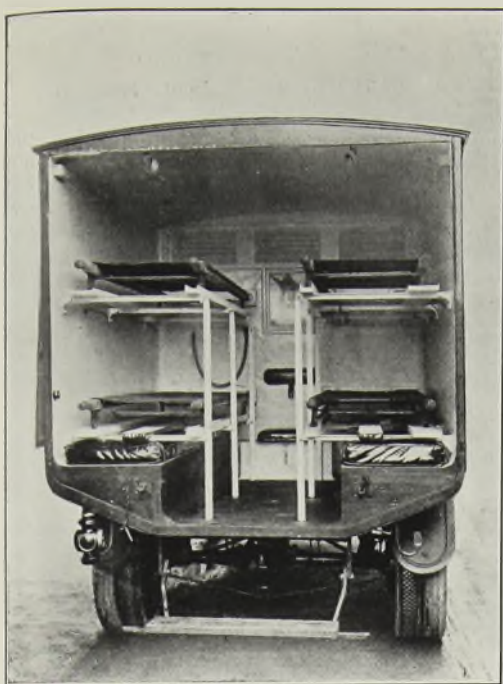
There is no doubt that the subject of repatriation did not receive the attention it deserved. The Portuguese authorities claim that this was due to the insufficiency of carrying accommodation, while the opponents of the system argue that if the labourers could be brought, they could be taken back again. The reply to this appears to have been that repatriation entirely depended upon the deck accommodation available on the Portuguese line of steamers employed, which was not always as much on one journey as on the other. Full repatriation now, however, appears to be in progress.

There is one point in this connection which is important, inasmuch as it helps those not personally acquainted with the subject to realise what the contract labourer really is, and the difficulties associated with giving him "white man's" treatment. A memorandum from the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs says that repatriation *en masse* was inconvenient to the colonies from whence the labourers came. "Repatriated natives, half civilised by their sojourn in St. Thomé, even spent the repatriation bonus and refused to proceed to the villages prepared for them. . . . Having spent their money—a matter which it is impossible to prevent, considering the nature of the black—and having no respect for their surroundings, they often avail themselves of the experience acquired by their training at St. Thomé to oppress and rob other natives."

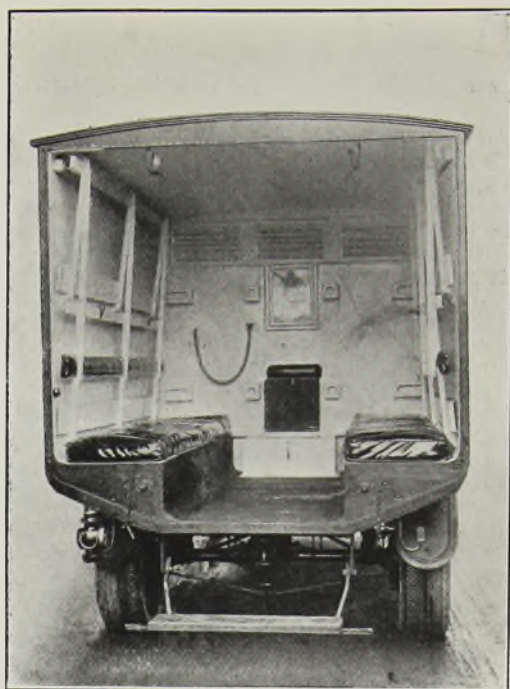
A good deal of the White Book is taken up with an account of what has been done in the eradication of the tsetse fly, which has caused so much sleeping sickness in Príncipe, and from the good results obtained the necessary work appears to have been taken up in an able manner by the Portuguese.

On the whole, it may be considered that the attention which the subject has received has been productive of much good. It would appear that little exception can be taken to the present system now that its abuses have been rectified, and both the Portuguese and our Government have handled a delicate matter with much success.

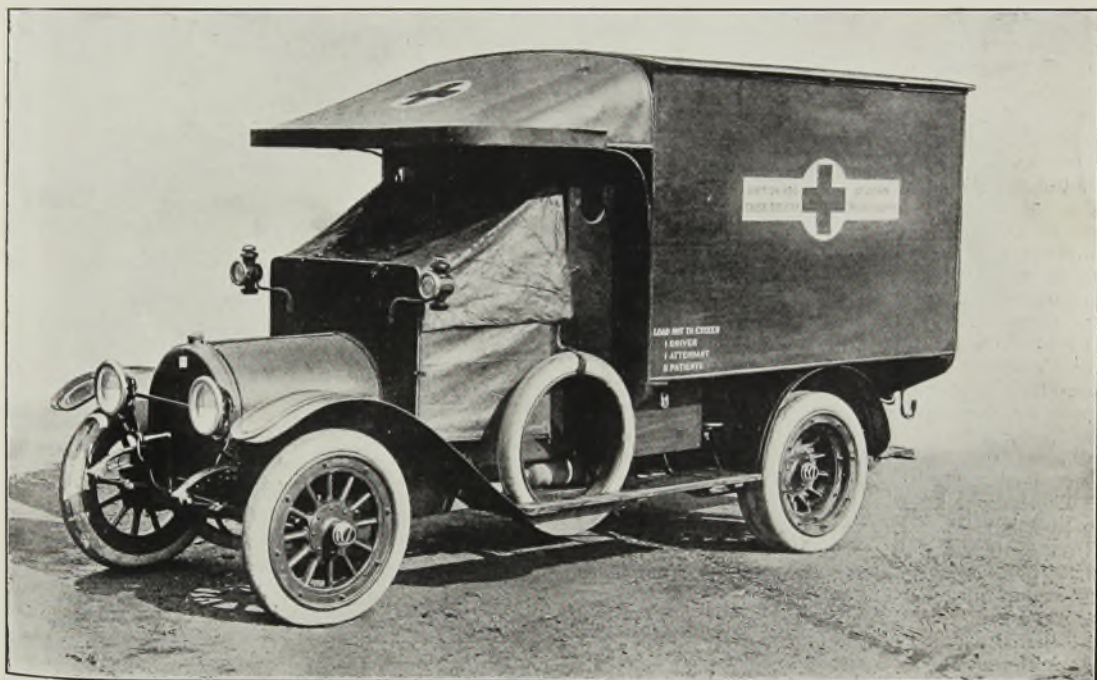




THE STRETCHERS FIXED IN POSITION.



PREPARED FOR EIGHT SITTING CASES.



ONE OF THE CARS READY FOR DUTY.

### BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD MOTOR AMBULANCES.

The People of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago have presented two more ambulances to the British Red Cross Society. The design is as shown above and the cars are inscribed "From the People of Barbados," and "From the Trinidad and Tobago Branch," respectively

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the monthly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, September 9th. The members also present were: Mr. R. Rutherford (Deputy-Chairman), Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. C. Carrington, Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and confirmed, the following were admitted members of the West India Committee:—

Names.	Proposers and Seconders.
Hon. W. L. C. Phillips (Barbados)	{Mr. R. Rutherford. {Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.
Mr. Frank H. S. Warneford, B.Sc. (Antigua)	{Hon. R. Warneford. {Hon. John J. Comacho.
Mr. G. T. Macdougall (Trinidad)	{Mr. G. David Hatt. {Hon. Hugh McLelland.
Mr. Torrance Skeete (Barbados)	{Mr. R. Rutherford. {Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.
Mr. Dugald Campbell (Jamaica)	{Mr. William Gillespie. {Mr. G. R. Alston.
Mr. H. W. Everington (Dominica)	{Captain F. Everington. {Mr. William Gillespie.
Mr. W. F. Stodart (Trinidad)	{Messrs. Stephens, Ltd. {Messrs. Lade & Co.
Mr. James Gilbert (Trinidad)	{Hon. W. Gordon Gordon {Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. James A. P. Bowhill (British Guiana)	{Mr. G. David Hatt. {Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co.
Messrs. Urquhart Bros.	{Mr. F. Henry Norton. {Mr. W. Middleton Campbell
Mr. D. Morris Skinner (Barbados)	{Mr. C. S. Pitcher. {Mr. C. M. Manning.
Mr. C. W. O. Rochs	{Mr. R. Rutherford. {Mr. W. Middleton Campbell
Dr. Paul F. Cremona, M.B., Ch.B., Edin. (St. Vincent)	{Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. {Mr. W. Middleton Campbell
Mr. William H. Beach (St. Vincent)	{Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. {Mr. W. Middleton Campbell
Mr. Edward M. Beach (St. Vincent)	{Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. {Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. W. F. O. Paul (Tobago)	{Mr. G. David. {Mr. Isaac Hope.
The Rev. Dean Shepherd (Antigua)	{Mr. R. Bryson. {Mr. G. Moody-Stuart.
Mr. E. H. E. Dalrymple (Montserrat)	{Mr. Osmund G. Bladen. {Mr. Charles Mercer.

Correspondence with the Colonial Office with regard to the mail service was read, and the Chairman said that he had been informed that negotiations in connection with the proposed temporary service were proceeding favourably.

### The West Indian Contingent Committee.

A letter was read from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated August 27th, in which he stated that it was desired to form a Committee for the purpose of providing comforts and otherwise con-

tributing to the welfare of the West Indian Contingent, which had been accepted for service by the Army Council and was in the course of formation, and asking the West India Committee to nominate six gentlemen who might be invited to become members of the Committee. The Secretary reported that the Sub-Committee nominated by the Chairman, and the Deputy-Chairman after the preceding meeting comprised: Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and the Secretary, and that they had co-opted Mr. J. Rippon. The Secretary had been instructed to submit these names to Mr. Bonar Law, and to point out that it would appear that the formation of this Contingent Committee would obviate the need of the West India Committee also taking steps in the same direction, in accordance with their offer already submitted to the Colonial Office and the Governors of the Colonies concerned, by several of whom it had already been accepted. He was instructed to add that the West India Committee would be very much pleased to do all in their power to assist the Contingent Committee.

It was decided to place the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, at the disposal of the West India Contingent Committee, of which Mr. Aspinall has been appointed Hon. Secretary.

### The Uniformity of Laws.

Copies of replies received through the Colonial Office from the Governors of the West Indian Colonies relative to the suggestion of the West India Committee for bringing about uniformity in the execution of registration and deeds for securing a short statutory form of mortgage for use throughout the West Indies, were referred to the Uniformity of Laws Sub-Committee.

### A Preference for British Sugar.

A letter was read from the Governor of Jamaica dated August 5th, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Jamaica Agricultural Society urging the accord of preferential treatment to British produced sugar for a period of not less than ten years:

Whereas the resources of His Majesty's West Indian possessions, and those of this Island of Jamaica in particular, as regards the production of sugar, are capable of considerable development, and whereas such development is highly desirable, not only as increasing the prosperity and trade of His Majesty's West Indian possessions, but also as rendering consumers in the Mother Country independent of sugar supplies derived from foreign sources:

Be it resolved that His Majesty's Government be respectfully requested to give its earnest attention to the question of the encouragement of sugar production in this Island: and with this in view, and in order that the necessary capital may be attracted, that such preferential treatment be accorded to British produced sugar for a period of not less than ten years as would suffice for the further development of the existing sugar indus-

try, as also for overcoming the initial difficulty to be encountered in establishing the industry in places where it does not at present exist, but where conditions point to the probability of successful continuance when such initial difficulties shall have been overcome.

#### Some Letters of Thanks.

A letter was read, dated August 21st, from Mr. Secretary Bonar Law thanking the West India Committee for their action in connection with Dr. Marshall's report on Ankylostomiasis in Antigua, and the Secretary was instructed to thank the Jamaica Agricultural Society for the sentiments expressed in the following Resolution proposed by His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, and seconded by Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G., adopted unanimously at the Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Society:—

"That this Society desires to convey to the West India Committee, and especially to Mr. Aspinall, its Secretary, its grateful acknowledgment of the thoughtful care and great trouble taken in so widely distributing the War Gifts sent by the Jamaica Agricultural Society to our wounded soldiers and sailors and to the Fleet."

### THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

#### The British Guiana detachment arrives.

As announced in last CIRCULAR, an advance detachment of the West Indian Contingent comprising 120 men from British Guiana have reached Seaford Camp in Sussex, where they are now stationed. The men are in the best of health and spirits, with one exception, Private Christiani having fallen down during a gale off Barbados and sustained a compound fracture of the leg, which necessitated his being taken to a hospital in Plymouth, where he must remain for a little time.

From the moment of their arrival the men passed under the control of the War Office, who had made full arrangements as to hutting, etc., and they were met by Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, Commissioner of Montserrat, who is at present acting as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General on the Staff.

On reaching their camp the men were provided with supper by the Young Men's Christian Association, which is doing admirable work in the military camps in this country and at the front, providing recreation huts and tents and otherwise looking after our soldiers.

#### The West Indian Contingent Committee.

Two meetings of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which, as stated in last issue, has been formed at the invitation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, have been held at the Colonial Office, and a General Purposes Committee has been formed, and will issue an appeal for funds almost immediately to enable it to carry out the objects which it has in view. These will include the provision of comforts, the affording of help and advice to the men while they are in training or on fur-

lough, or when wounded or in hospital, and the provision of a convalescent home during convalescence after discharge from hospital.

Sir Everard im Thurn, a former Government Agent of the North-West district in British Guiana, and lately Governor of Fiji, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee, the members of which include Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O.; Sir Charles Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.; Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B.; Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G.; Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G.; Sir Robert Llewellyn, K.C.M.G.; Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G.; Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G.; Mr. Edward R. Davson; Mr. William Gillespie; Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.; Mr. W. Moody-Stuart; Mr. W. A. M. Goode; Mr. I. Rippou, and Mr. Robert Rutherford.

The Treasurers are Sir Edward Ward, Sir Sydney Olivier, and Mr. R. Rutherford, and, as already stated, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall is the Hon. Secretary. The headquarters of the Committee are at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The Committee have already received generous offers of assistance from the Union Jack Club, the organisation which furnishes reading-rooms and sleeping accommodation for soldiers when they visit London, and the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, which has placed a special hut at the disposal of the West Indians, for which the Committee is providing stoves now that colder weather may be expected. The Committee has decided to extend its scope of operations in the direction of providing for the welfare of the hundreds of West Indians who have come over, and of the others who may come over to enlist, and has placed its services also at the disposal of the Bermuda Contingent now attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment, an offer which has been gratefully accepted by the Governor, Lieut.-General Sir George Bullock, K.C.B., to whom it was cabled.

The names of the members of the first detachment of the British Guiana detachment of the West Indian Contingent are given below:—

Craig, Lieut. R. J., British Guiana Police.

#### BRITISH GUIANA ARTILLERY COMPANY.

Brunnall, Gunner C. H.	Pestano, Gunner J.
Chalmers, Corpl. C.	Smith, Gunner N. W.
Craig, Gunner R. B.	Thompson, Gunner W. C.
Davis, Corpl. L. S.	Thornhill, Gunner J. O.
Harrison, Gunner W.	Veecoek, Sergt. P. R.
Parsley, Gunner C. H.	Wight, Gunner A. N.
Pereira, Gunner N. G.	Woolford, Gunner V.

#### BRITISH GUIANA INFANTRY MILITIA.

Abraham, Private H. V.	Grose, Private C. B.
Bloomendaal, Private J. J.	Hendy, Private C. J.
Bunbury, Private E. N.	Hewitt, Private J. W.
Chan, Private A. V.	Hunte, Lieut.-Corp. T. W.
Da Costa, Private E. J.	Johashen, Private V.
Darrell, Private A. T.	Jordan, Private N. B.
de Barros, Private A.	McGowan, Corpl. H.
de Freitas, Private A. T.	Pereira, Private E. G.
Deubert, Private D.	Pinkerton, Private.
Gordon, Lieut.-Corpl.	Rohlehr, Sergt. B. A.
Gonsalves, Private D. A.	Wells, Private I. C.
Gonsalves, Private I.	

## THE BRITISH GUIANA POLICE FORCE.

Alleyne, Private.  
 Andres, Private.  
 Bentick, Private.  
 Broome, Private.  
 Brown, Private.  
 Callendar, Lee-Corpl.  
 Campbell, Private.  
 Crawford, Private.  
 Cummings, Private.  
 Douglas, Private.  
 Fordyce, Private.  
 Fountain, Private.  
 Fontaine, Private.  
 Franklin, Private.  
 Frazer, Private.  
 George, Private.  
 Gonsalves, Private.  
 Gravesande, Private.  
 Hamilton, Private.  
 Hendy, Private.

## CIVILIAN CLASS.

Abbott, Private.  
 Adamson, Private.  
 Answick, Private C. A.  
 Answick, Private H.  
 Austin, Private.  
 Blacklaws, Private.  
 Bradshaw, Private.  
 Bruce, Private.  
 Christiani, Private.  
 Cox, Private.  
 Da Silva, Private.  
 De Souza, Private.  
 Donald, Private.  
 Fey, Private.  
 Grant, Private.  
 Gibson, Private.  
 Gibson, Private.  
 Hayde, Private.  
 Hinds, Private.  
 Howard, Private.  
 Jacobs, Private.

Howard, Private.  
 Jarvis, Private.  
 Kendall, Private.  
 Lyksee, Private.  
 MacPherson, Private.  
 MacRae, Private.  
 Marks, Lee-Corpl A. T.  
 Mattheson, Private.  
 Nicholls, Private.  
 Norton, Private.  
 Richards, Private.  
 Ross, Private.  
 Sabola, Private.  
 Smartt, Private.  
 Somerset, Private.  
 Stewart, Private.  
 Thomas, Private.  
 Wallcott, Private.  
 Washington, Private.  
 Woolford, Private.

Jones, Private.  
 Kwang, Private.  
 Lopes, Private A. J.  
 Lopes, Private J. O.  
 Loubet, Private.  
 Maicer, Private.  
 Moore, Private.  
 Melville, Private.  
 Norton, Private.  
 Phillander, Private.  
 Pickerell, Private.  
 Reynard, Private.  
 Rose, Private.  
 Ross, Private.  
 Sadler, Private.  
 Solomon, Private.  
 Stephen, Private.  
 Stewart, Private.  
 Stewart, Private.  
 Vancouten, Private.  
 Wilson, Private.

Hospital at Aberdeen, and Private J. McEwen was admitted to the County of London Hospital at Epsom suffering from a severe gun-shot wound in the shoulder.

## Cable Facilities for the Contingent.

For the convenience of members of the West Indian Contingent or West Indians serving with His Majesty's Forces, the following regulations regarding facilities for sending "week-end telegrams," for which we are indebted to the Direct West India Cable Company, are published:—

Week-end letter telegrams of a domestic character from soldiers, sailors, and nurses serving with His Majesty's Forces, can now be accepted for transmission to the places mentioned below, at the charges specified. These telegrams will be dealt with in accordance with the rules for ordinary week-end telegrams, except that no minimum charges will be payable, and they will bear a special indication (see below).

Such telegrams may also be accepted from the general public to members of the Forces serving outside Europe. In the case of these telegrams the following particulars should, as far as possible, be given in the address:—

## ARMY.

Regimental No., Rank and Name.  
 Squadron, Battery or Company.  
 Regiment (or other Unit).  
 Expeditionary Force concerned; or, in the case of troops not with the Expeditionary Forces, the name of the place where they are stationed.

## NAVY.

Christian and Surname.  
 Rank or Rating.  
 Official or Divisional No.  
 Name of Ship or Establishment.

Where the place of destination does not appear in the address, the sender should be asked where he believes the addressee to be; and the charge should be calculated accordingly. The following words should then be inserted in the Service Instructions by the accepting officer: "Charge as paid for....." (the name of the place being added).

Telegrams must be written in plain English or plain French. No code words will be admitted; and figures will not be allowed in the text. The sender's name must be included in the matter to be telegraphed.

Telegrams will be accepted at sender's risk; and no subsequent enquiry concerning them can be undertaken.

The indication "EFM" should be written in bold characters before the address of each message. Where two routes are shown to be available, the one selected by the sender should be written in the "Service Instructions." The indication "EFM" is charged for.

## RATES.

Bermuda, Jamaica, Turks Island: 5d. per word.  
 Other British West Indian Islands and British Guiana: 9d. per word.

In anticipation of the publication of the appeal for the West Indian Contingent Fund, the Colonial Bank has kindly promised to the Hon. Treasurers a contribution of one hundred pounds.

The Wimbledon Red Cross Auxiliary is supplying many warm shirts and socks for the men of the West Indian Contingent, and Mrs. Cunningham Craig, of the Dutch House, Beaconsfield, is kindly collecting comforts for the Trinidad Detachment. Similar offers of help are invited from readers of the CIRCULAR.

Mr N. Taylor, Camp Leader of the Y.M.C.A. at Seaford, writes on September 16th: "The 'Advance Guard' of the West Indian Contingent are making a very favourable impression locally. Their conduct is all that could be desired. There were many men here belonging to the Ulster Division of Ireland when these men came, and it was very pleasing to note the spirit of comradeship which speedily sprang up between the two sections. The Ulster boys were loud in their praises of the newcomers, and many of them were photographed together. Some of these photographs are already on their way across the seas—some to Ireland, and some to British Guiana."

## The Bermuda Contingent.

The Bermuda Contingent consists of just over 90 men, all Europeans, of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Club, who volunteered to form a company, and were accepted by the War Office at the end of last year. The Contingent reached England last April, and has already seen active service in France or Flanders with the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, to which it is attached. There have so far only been three casualties in the force. Private Stone is at the County of London War Hospital, Epsom, having sustained a slight gun-shot wound in the scalp; Private D. Hall met with a slight accidental injury and is in the 1st Scottish General

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

*Passed by the Press Censor for publication.*

Mr. Lloyd George—who, as head of the Munitions Department, ought to know—tells us that our efforts within the next three months victory for the Allies will depend, and that in the production of projectiles our output is limited not by our capacity, but by our slackness. Mr. Harcourt, however—whose presence in the Cabinet when we are fighting for our life is a symbol that, as a nation, we have not fully realised the position—tells us that all is well. Curiously enough, Lord Kitchener, though he never gives information, made the most significant Ministerial speech. Hitherto he has never even implied that the existing system of enlistment might have to be changed. Now he says that, owing to the diminution in recruiting returns, the question of a continuous supply of drafts "has caused us anxious thought . . . is engaging our close attention, and will, I hope, very soon receive a practical solution." Does this mean conscription?

Our losses up to July 31st were 381,892. Of these, 87,000 represent casualties in the Dardanelles. The cost of the war averages about £35,000,000 a week, including loans to the Allies and British Dominions oversea, and the cry of both the Prime Minister and the Minister of War is for more men and more money. As neither ventured on a forecast as to the duration of the war, it may be taken for granted that the road to victory will be a long one.

To meet the situation caused by the upward tendency of American Exchange caused by our curtailed ability to pay for our imports with exports, a loan, guaranteed by England and France, is being negotiated in the United States by a Commission appointed for the purpose. Because of the opposition to it of banks in the Middle West, largely controlled by Germans, no financial houses with Teutonic affiliations have been asked to co-operate. That German intrigue, which is afoot with mischievous intent, will check this new move of the Allies is unlikely.

### On the Eastern Front.

The Tsar has now taken supreme command of the Russian forces in Europe, with General Alexieff as his Chief-of-Staff. The Grand Duke Nicholas, whose consummate skill as a military leader has won him a high niche in the temple of fame, has been appointed Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief in the Caucasus. These changes imply no modification of Russia's historic strategy directed against the German invader. But it is possible that the advent of the Grand Duke in the Tsar's Asiatic dominions may be the prelude to the inauguration of an early offensive against the Turks so as to ease their pressure on the Allied forces in Gallipoli.

Lord Kitchener is of the opinion that Germany has "nearly shot her last bolt" in Russia. For-

tresses and territory have been occupied at enormous cost, but, though working on interior lines, and possessing a preponderance in numbers, guns, and ammunition, the enemy has not succeeded in bringing about such a tactical position as would involve a surrender of a considerable portion of the Russian Army, which is still to-day intact as a fighting force. Distributed along a front of some 750 miles, it has steadily retired its whole length between 100 and 200 miles, foiling, at intervals, the enemy's converging movements by vigorous attacks on one or other of the enemy's columns, and so delaying it that it arrived too late at the point of junction. Only soldiers of the finest fighting quality could emerge from such an ordeal with undiminished spirit. It is good news that they are at last beginning to receive a more adequate supply of munitions.

What the Germans are trying to do is to rest their flanks on a secure point, and the further they advance, the more their objective eludes them. To gain a solid line such as they have in the West, they would have to render their front continuous from the Baltic Sea to the Roumanian frontier. At present they are fighting in three main sections—one south of the Pinsk marshes, one north of it, and the third on the Dwina front, the natural and economic conditions of Russia enabling her hardy soldiers to prevent the enemy from linking up his armies. Apparently Hindenburg is preparing for extensive movements in Courland to get control of the railways connecting Petrograd with the western centres of population which have not yet fallen into German hands. With this aim in view, a steel road of standard gauge is said to have been laid between Memel and Libau so as to link up the railways of East Prussia and Courland and provide for transport by sea so as to relieve the congestion of traffic on land. If this is true the question of Riga can wait till the Russian hold on it is weakened by operations higher up the Dwina. In this region the advance of the Germans is slow but continuous. They have forced the passages at Friedrichstadt and Linden, and are now within sixteen miles of Vilna in three converging lines. South of this city, after having held up the enemy's forces for more than a week by a counter-offensive, the Russians are drawing back in order to straighten their line. Probably the next news we shall hear will be the fall of Vilna. East of Grodno similar movements on the part of the Germans have resulted in the occupation of Mosty, where the Wolkowski-Lida railway bridges the Niemen. Meanwhile Mackensen is pursuing his toilsome way through the marshes towards Pinsk.

In the south, where the Austrians are supporting the general plan of operations but poorly, our Allies are turning on the enemy with considerable success. In little more than a fortnight 60,000 prisoners have been captured besides much loot. On the Sereth, north and south of Tarnopol, the Austrians, although strongly reinforced, not only failed in their attacks, but were driven back with heavy loss. Higher up on the Dniester they have been <sup>50</sup>

badly mauled in two engagements as to be forced into retreat. The safety of the right flank of the enemy must, therefore, be causing him anxiety. Apparently the stiffening of Austrian troops with Germans has not succeeded so well as he expected. For this reason the fight for the Vilna-Kovno railway is retarded, and the Russian winter is approaching earlier than usual.

### The United States and the Germanic Powers

Behind the tension between America and Germany is supposed to wage a conflict between Admiral von Tirpitz, as representing a policy of frightfulness at sea, and the Imperial Chancellor, who desires to maintain friendly relations with the only remaining great neutral Power. That is surmise. There is, however, no doubt that the United States is being forced dangerously near the brink of war, and as her belligerency would be a misfortune to the Allies, the probabilities are that there is less division in German councils than optimists would like us to believe. But no Sovereign Power can afford to suffer a series of insults, such as America has suffered, without taking effective steps to secure redress. Towards that up to the present Germany has done nothing but make promises, which were immediately broken, or evade the issues by expedients that would not deceive a child. Hence her suggestion to arbitrate on the question of the sinking of the *Arabie* has been refused because it would lead to nothing conclusive, as the claim that the *Arabie* tried to ram the submarine which sank her is rebutted by the sworn testimony of the American survivors. Even more dishonest is the German excuse for torpedoing the *Orduna*. It appears that the weather conditions did not permit the captain of the submarine to determine the character or nationality of the vessel.

The relations between the Dual Monarchy and the United States have reached such an acute stage that President Wilson has asked for the recall of Dr Dumba, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador. He entrusted a letter to an American journalist named Archibald in which he urged the Government of his country to finance a scheme to promote strikes among Austro-Hungarian nationals employed in American munition factories.

### The War in the Air and at Sea.

Of the failure of the enemy's submarine warfare against British commerce the figures issued by the War Risk Associations for a twelvemonth are eloquent. According to them the estimated value of the cargoes carried in British ships between July 31, 1914, and July 31, 1915, amounted to £1,502,000,000, the value lost £7,240,096. This represents .48 per cent. of loss for the entire year. In the first 6 months it was at the rate of  $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. in the last six months—that is during the blockade—at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

but if Germany has failed to achieve her end in the present war, she has created an abiding peril to her own merchant marine, and to all others in the piratical precedents which, as no neutral Power

has made an effective stand, may be held as justification for similar outrages and murders. As the submarine is being evolved into a vessel with high speed, a great radius of action, and powerful guns, together with many torpedo tubes, and future navies will have them by hundreds instead of by tens as now, it is of the utmost importance that the British Navy should develop effective means of destroying those craft. That this is being done, proof comes from many indirect sources, as well as from the considerable losses of the enemy submarines.

After an interval of three weeks German Zeppelins have again become active in raiding the Eastern counties by dropping incendiary and explosive bombs. On the 8th, several parts of London suffered considerable damage, and the total casualties for a week were 173. It is officially announced that the aerial defence of the Metropolis is to be organised under the direction of Admiral Sir Percy Scott. Paris effectively organised hers some time ago.

A Zeppelin has been destroyed near Brussels by a daring British aviator, who suddenly attacked it when it was manœuvring.

E7 has been sunk by the Turks, though her gallant commander and crew have been saved as prisoners. In this vessel they did great damage to enemy shipping in the Sea of Marmora, and blocked the railway near Kava Burni by bombarding it from the sea, besides shelling a troop train and blowing up three ammunition cars.

(To be continued.)

## THE BUDGET.

### Sugar, Cocoa and Coffee Duties increased.

As we go to press, Mr. McKenna is making his Budget statement in the House of Commons. The new taxes proposed include: (1) An addition of 40 per cent. to the existing income tax rate for the full year, and an increase in the super-taxes on incomes over £8,000 per annum; (2) An increase in the sugar duty from 1s. 10d. to 9s. 4d. per cwt., or  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. to the consumer; (3) a 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. *ad valorem* duty on motor-cars and cycles, cinema films, clocks, watches, musical instruments, plate glass and hats; (4) An increase of 3d. per gallon in the duty on motor spirit; and (5) An all-round increase of 50 per cent. in the duties on tea, tobacco, cocoa, coffee, chicory, and dried fruits. Increases in the postal and telegraphic rates are proposed, and a new excess profits tax on businesses amounting to 50 per cent. of the surplus profits above £100, taking the profits assessed for income tax for 1914-15 as the basis. No increase in the spirit duties is proposed. Mr. McKenna said that he was afraid that his proposals would satisfy neither the strict Free Trader nor the scientific Tariff Reformers. Both of them must for the time being put their fiscal theories on one side.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:

Agostini, 2nd Lieut. H. S. F. (son of Mr. Edgar Agostini, K.C., Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

Anderson, 2nd Lieut. N. R. (of Trinidad), 10th Batt., Bedfordshire Regiment.

Bell, 2nd Lieut. L. (of Dominica), Welsh Regiment.

Bertram, Private W. R. (of Grenada), King Edward's Horse.

Boon, 2nd Lieut. G. P. (of Montserrat), Royal Field Artillery.

Brown, 2nd Lieut. J. H. (of Trinidad), 12th Batt., Warwickshire Regiment.

Carruthers, 2nd Lieut. W. A. (of British Guiana), 11th Batt., Royal Scots.

Cocks, 734 Driver M. L. G. (of Grenada), Honourable Artillery Company.

Coombs, Sergeant M. E. (of Trinidad), 2nd King Edward's Horse.

Coxhead, Brigadier-General James Alfred, C.B. (was Private Secretary and A.D.C. to his father-in-law, General, afterwards Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B., whilst Governor of Jamaica, 1883-87), Commandant of the Remount Department.

D'Aguilar, W. (Kingston, Jamaica), enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Davies, Lieut. E. R. (of Trinidad), Royal Sussex Regiment.

Dickson, Lieut. J. R. (of Trinidad), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Dorward, Major General Sir A. R. F., K.C.B., D.S.O. (served in Jamaica as Officer Commanding Defence Force), Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport at the War Office.

Dunn, Captain C. de S. (of St. Vincent), Staff.

Freeman, Lieut. E. R. (of British Guiana), 1st Batt., King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry.

Garland, 2nd Lieut. E. D. (son of the late Captain Garland, and grandson of the late Hon. S. C. Burke, M.L.C., St. Andrews, Jamaica), Leicester Regiment. Mr. Garland has just returned from serving with General Botha in German South West Africa.

Glegg, Lance-Corporal George Stanley (eldest son of the late Mr. Robert Glegg, of Nevis, and Mrs. Mary F. B. Dobridge, of St. Kitts), the Scottish Rifles.

Goodacre, 2nd Lieut. N. H. J. (of British Guiana), 10th Batt., Leicestershire Regiment.

Greenidge, C. C. D. (of Barbados) Royal Army Medical Corps.

Hammond, Lieut. S. B. B. (of Trinidad), 8th Batt., Worcester Regiment.

Harris, Thomas Henry (Brown's Town, Jamaica), Able Seaman H.M.S. *Bristol*.

Heale, Hon. Lieut. G. R. C. (of Jamaica), 19th Batt., West Riding Regiment.

Honey, Lieut. Wm. R. (son of the late Mr. T. M. Honey, Savannah-la-Mar, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Hume, 2nd Lieut. H. H. (of British Guiana), 18th Batt., Northumberland Fusiliers.

Johns, 2nd Lieut. H. (of Dominica), 9th (Service) Batt., Welsh Regiment.

Jones, 2nd Lieut. Edmund Parker (of Jamaica), 167th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Kent, H. A. F. (of Kingston, Jamaica), enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Kennard, 2nd Lieut. W. R. (of British Guiana), 13th Batt., Worcestershire Regiment.

Kirkwood, Abram G. (son of Mr. H. G. Kirkwood, of Kingston, Jamaica), enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Mason, Captain D. R. (of Trinidad), Royal Naval Reserve.

Parsons, Lieut. S. G. (of British Guiana), 13th Batt., Worcestershire Regiment.

Peck, 2nd Lieut. E. K. B. (of Trinidad), 4th Batt., Manchester Regiment.

Phillips, 2nd Lieut. A. S. (of Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.

Pike, 2nd Lieut. H. (of British Guiana), 8th Batt., Somerset Light Infantry.

Ragg, Lieut. P. M., M.B., C.M. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Russell, Second Lieutenant E. B. (of the Public Works Depot, Antigua), 10/2nd East Lancashire Regiment.

Shepherd, Lieutenant Arthur (son of Dean Shepherd, of Antigua), 2nd Fiji Contingent, attached to the King's Royal Rifles.

Smith, Second Lieutenant Adam Clayton (son of the Hon. Adam Smith, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 16th Service Battalion Highland Light Infantry (2nd Glasgow).

Smith, Lieutenant Norman McGann, M.B., Ch.B. (son of Hon. Adam Smith, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), Royal Army Medical Corps, 2/2nd East Anglian Field Ambulance.

Smith, Trotwood H. (of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, late West India Regiment), enlisted in Kitchener's Army. *At the Dardanelles.*

Stedman, Lieut. J. G. (of Jamaica), 9th Batt., Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Steele, Captain A. R. (of Trinidad), 4th Batt., Hussars.

Stone, T. (of British Guiana), East Kent Regiment.

Sutton, L. C. L. (son of Mr. Leonard Sutton, of Mandeville, Jamaica), Canadian Mounted Rifles, Canadian Contingent.

Taitt, 2nd Lieut. N. R. (of Trinidad), 10th Batt., Bedfordshire Regiment.

Thomson, Lieut. R. (of British Guiana), 13th Batt., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Warner, Captain T. A. (of Trinidad), 11th Batt., Gloucestershire Regiment.

Williams, Private Dudley A. (of Kingston, Jamaica), 3rd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company.

Williams, Private George E. (son of Mr. George Williams, of St. Lucia), 3/28 County of London Regiment, The Artists Rifles.

Wynne, 2nd Lieut. R. J. (of Jamaica), 10th Batt., North Staffordshire Regiment.

### Killed in Action.

LIEUT. E. C. ELLIS, 15th Battalion Gloucester Regiment, who has been killed in action, was a Sub-Inspector of Constabulary in Trinidad.

BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL ALOYSIUS KENNA, V.C. D.S.O., who has been killed in action at the Dardanelles, joined the 2nd West India Regiment from Sandhurst in 1886, and served with it for two years in Jamaica and West Africa, before he was transferred to the 21st Hussars, afterwards the 21st Lancers.

CAPTAIN J. K. MARTIN, 10th (Service) Batt. Durham Light Infantry, who has been killed in action, was Clerk to the Commissioners of Montserrat.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES LOUIS ENGELBERT RIV LAKE, who, we regret to learn, has been killed in action at the Dardanelles, was the only son of the late James Louis Lake, Resident Magistrate of Anguilla, and District Magistrate of Dominica, and nephew of Mr. Carter Rey, the Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee in Anguilla. At the outbreak of war he was studying engineering at McGill University, Montreal; but he at once cabled to his mother and obtained her consent to his joining the Army. This having been granted he came to England and obtained a commission in the 3rd Border Regiment. He went through the usual training and attended a class of instruction in the administrative and

field duties of a platoon commander at Chatham. He was then attached to the 1st Border Regiment and sent to the Dardanelles last May. Soon after his arrival he was wounded in the hand and sent to Egypt to the Hospital there. He recovered and returned to duty. In one of his last letters he said he was "in a dug out on the side of the mountain, sloping to the sea, and the rest of the regiment were hanging on like flies to the crest. Except for a few occasional shells, they were all right." Mr. Lake is the second Antigua man to be killed at the Dardanelles, the first was the son of Mr. W. Percival, of Antigua, to whose death reference was made in last CIRCULAR. Mr. Lake was a descendant of Lieut.-Col. Lake, sometime Lieut.-Governor of St. Kitts, and his family have been in Anguilla for generations. He was educated at the Antigua Grammar School, under Archdeacon Branch, but was born in Anguilla.

### Died of Wounds.

SERGEANT GEORGE PHILLIP GURNEY HOARE, of the Essex YEOMANRY, who has, we regret to learn, died of wounds sustained in action on May 13th, was the son of Mr. Charles Gurney Hoare, Chairman of the Colonial Bank.

LIEUTENANT WILMOY BARKINGTON PARKER SMITH, 1/3rd Scottish Horse, who, we regret to state, died at Malta on Sept. 11th from wounds received at the Dardanelles on Sept. 2nd, was the younger son of the Right Hon. James Parker Smith, of Jordanhill, Glasgow, for some years a member of the Executive Committee. He was born in 1885, and educated at Winchester, where he shot in the winning Biscy Hunt, and at King's College, Cambridge, of which he was an hon. exhibitor. He took a first class in the Classical Tripos, being the fifth successive generation of Cambridge first class men of his family. He went to Calcutta in the service of the Bombay Company in 1907, and there he joined the Calcutta Light Horse, but, being at home on sick leave at the beginning of the war, he was transferred to the Scottish Horse.

### Wounded.

Glegg, Private Robert Cyril Vynn (son of the late Mr. Robert Glegg, of Nevis, and of Mrs. Mary E. B. Dobridge, of St. Kitts), of the 16th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, was wounded at the front in May, but is now convalescent.

### Honours.

Captain S. A. Boddam-Whetham, formerly A.D.C. to Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Bahamas, of the Royal Artillery, was decorated with the Military Cross by the King at Windsor on July 21st.

Commander Cochrane, of the Submarine E7, which has been given up as lost, though it is believed that the officers and crew have been saved, is the son of the Hon. Thomas Cochrane, who was Chairman of the Trinidad Oilfields, and nephew of Lord Dundonald, who has also practical interests in the West Indies.

and Lieut. M.W. Seton-Browne (son of Hon.G. S. Seton-Browne), 2nd Leicester Regiment, who as already announced was killed in action in November last, was mentioned in Sir John French's Despatch of January 14th for gallantry.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Bryan, Major H. (of Jamaica), 9th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers.

Clarke, W. R. (Kingston, Jamaica), Transport Department, Royal Flying Corps.

Delafons, Second Lieut. R. A. (of British Guiana), 7th Batt. Dorsetshire Regiment.

de Cordova, Captain V. L. (son of Mr. Joshua de Cordova, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Dunn, Private E. W. (of Jamaica), Honourable Artillery Company.

Francis, Second Lieut. J. H. (of Jamaica), 9th Batt. South Wales Borderers.

Hampden-King, Second Lieut. C. J. (of British Guiana), Royal Field Artillery.

Havelock, Lieut. E. W. (of Trinidad), 16th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.

Hill, Captain C. H. (of Trinidad), 11th Batt. York and Lancaster Regiment.

James, Captain H. D. McGregor (of Jamaica), Brigade Machine Gun Officer, Yorkshire Regiment.

Matthey, Lieut. A. (of British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.

McIntosh, L. A. (Kingston, Jamaica), Clerk, Transport Depot, Royal Flying Corps.

Morris, Second Lieut. J. E. (of British Guiana), 5th Batt. Welsh Regiment.

Ramun, Allan (son of Mr. C. B. Ramun, J.P., of Kingston, Jamaica), Despatch rider to the Motor Transport Field Ambulance, Army Service Corps.

Reid, Captain J. M. (of British Guiana), 1/4th Batt. Black Watch.

Sibthoipe, E. B. (late organist of Kingston Parish Church, Jamaica), Devonshire Regiment.

Sorzano, Private P. (of Trinidad), 2nd King Edward's Horse.

Wilson, Captain J. W. (of Trinidad), 11th Batt. Gloucester Regiment.

Wortley, Second Lieut. M. L. (of Jamaica), 3rd Batt. Suffolk Regiment.

### MORE WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

The fount of West Indian generosity is by no means exhausted, and every homeward mail steamer brings gifts in money and in kind for Great Britain, and, in several cases also, her allies.

Since the West Indian gifts were last enumerated in these columns 78 cases of fruit from the Jamaica Agricultural Society, 225 cases from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, and 72 packages of lines from the Dominica Agricultural Society have been received by the Army Council and distributed on their behalf by the West India Committee among sick and wounded soldiers and sailors. The Jamaica Agricultural Society has also sent 68 cases of banana figs, guava jelly, etc., 1,446 walking sticks, a case of clothing for Belgian refugees, one of socks for soldiers, besides many other gifts, and the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee forwarded 40 Imperial gallons of

### Coco-nut Oil for Sikhs' Hair,

a special request for which has been preferred to them by the West India Committee on behalf of the Indian Expeditionary Force. The contributions of fruit included 8 barrels of lines collected in Grenada by Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Editor of the *West Indian*. The fruit has arrived in excellent condition and the improvement in packing in Trinidad has been particularly noticeable. The thanks of the Committees are again due to Mr. W. Speed, Secretary of the West India Association of Liverpool, who handled the consignment from the *Quillota*.

The second motor ambulances presented to the British Red Cross Society by the local branch in Trinidad and Tobago, of which Mrs. Burslem and Miss Fenwick are the Hon. Secretaries, and by the



people of Barbados, at the instance of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, are now in commission, and have been sent to the front. A representative of the CIRCULAR inspected them before their departure, and reports that in every respect they are admirably suited for the purpose to which they will be put—that of carrying our wounded soldiers from the base clearing hospitals to the hospitals where they will be treated. The ambulances are four-cylinder Buick cars, of which a great number are already doing service at the Front. The chassis are fitted with dual rims on the back wheels and single on the front, equipped with six pneumatic tyres and one plain tyre on a spare rim. The bodies are equipped to carry four stretcher or eight sitting-down patients and a nurse in each car, and are lighted by electricity. They carry a tool-box, jack, pump, repair outfit, and a kit of tools, besides four stretchers. The cars have unusual hill-climbing power, and are fitted with an automatic governor to prevent reckless driving, and the steering is from the left hand, which is an advantage for use abroad, where the rules of the road are the converse of those in force here.

#### Relief for Belgium.

The Allies were mentioned above as the recipients of West Indian gifts, and we are glad to learn that an appeal made to the West Indies by the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, of which Mr. W. A. M. Goode, of the West Indian Club, is Hon. Secretary, is meeting with a generous response. The Government of Bermuda has contributed £500, that of Trinidad and Tobago £250, and that of St. Vincent £5 a month from July last until March, 1916, and in Jamaica, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Lucia the appeal is being widely circulated. Other contributions include a sum of £88 4s. collected by Hon. D. S. and Mrs. De Freitas in Grenada.

In British Honduras a Committee, of which Lieut.-Colonel W. J. Slack is Chairman, and Mr. J. Stanley Rae, Hon. Secretary, has been formed to support Mr. Goode's efforts, and has already collected about £200, besides 128 shirts and other comforts. The National Committee are to be congratulated in securing over £900,000 in four months, but as there are nearly two million Belgians in Belgium who are now destitute, and whom the Germans refuse to feed, the need for further donations in order to keep them alive will at once be apparent, and it may be mentioned that the offices of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium are at Trafalgar Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London.

#### "Fruits pour les Blessés."

The Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee have also remembered our Allies, and are sending fruit by the steamers of the Compagnie Transatlantique to the French Red Cross, the cases being labelled "Citrons. Don de la Trinidad aux marins et soldats malades et blessés de l'Angleterre et de ses Alliés. Unis ils battent pour le triomphe de la liberté et de la Justice." We see the hand of Mr. Randolph Rust in this.

A second consignment of linen and comforts has been sent to the British Red Cross Society by some ladies in Tobago. Those who helped include: Mrs. Tucker, Miss MacGillivray, Mrs. Blanc, Mrs. de Verteuil, Mrs. Kernahan, Mrs. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Strange, Mrs. Sorzano, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Clemens, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Spencer, (Speyside), Miss J. Hamilton, Mrs. Short, Mrs. Orde, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Gammel, Mrs. Sworder, Mr. Hatt, and Messrs. Miller's Stores. Cash donations, amounting to \$14.00, were received from Miss Macgillivray, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Cochrane and "Others." With the balance in hand (about \$13.00) it is proposed to buy materials for workers.

## THE BRITISH CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### The Possibilities of its Expansion.

#### XI.—NATAL PRODUCTION MIGHT BE TREBLED.

A further contribution to our knowledge as to the possibilities of the British Colonies as regards sugar is given below in the form of a letter from the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, dealing with the subject for Natal.

Governor-General's Office,  
Pretoria,

5th August, 1915.

Sir,—With further reference to your letters of the 23rd October, 1914, and 6th January, 1915, I am directed by the Governor-General to inform you that the following information relative to the possibility of the extension of the sugar industry in Natal has been furnished by His Excellency's Ministers:—

The actual acreage at present under cultivation for cane in Natal and Zululand is 140,763 acres, the acreage suitable and at present held for this purpose is 46,602 acres, and the approximate acreage which, being suitable, might be rendered available is 184,644 acres, making a total of 372,009 acres either under cultivation or suitable for the purpose.

The approximate amount of sugar which the Province of Natal (including Zululand) would be capable of producing, having regard to the difficulties of labour supply, and provided that reliable markets could be obtained oversea, is 332,048 tons.

The present output of sugar in Natal is about 100,000 tons, and to produce this amount there are employed on the sugar estates 13,000 Indian men and from 8,000 to 9,000 Indian women and children, as well as a number of natives, amounting it is thought to about 25 per cent. of the total labour employed, though reliable figures cannot be obtained owing to the fluctuation of the native labour supply.

It is considered that the coast lands of Natal are capable of producing 250,000 tons of sugar per annum, but in order to do this it would be necessary to supplement the labour at present available by at least 30,000 Indians or 40,000 natives.

The problem of the supply of labour is a most serious one, and no increase in the present output can take place unless there is an increase in such supply.

A pamphlet issued by the Department of Agriculture on sugar-growing in South Africa is attached hereto.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
F. HORSFALL.

*Acting Secretary to the Governor-General.*  
The Secretary,  
The West India Committee.

### THE DIETETIC VALUE OF SUGAR.

The following tribute to the value of sugar is taken from the address of Dr. Barber, the sugar-cane expert to the Indian Government, at the opening of the Madras Science Congress in January last, for an account of which we are indebted to the *Agricultural Journal of India*.

Sugar, said Dr. Barber, is not a luxury but an indispensable food. A writer, in a paper in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, gives the results of experiments with it, and shows that an added ration of sugar has a great effect in retarding fatigue. He shows that four times as much sugar is consumed by the body during muscular action as when at rest. An additional 8 ounces of sugar to the normal ration increases the power of work during an 8 hours' day by one-fourth to one-third. Muscles in action reject any other food and consume sugar only, and if other food, such as meat, is provided, a considerable amount of work is thrown on the body in breaking it down and extracting the sugar which it contains. Many ingenious arrangements have been invented to establish these facts, but perhaps the most interesting of these "ergographs" is an immense inclined plane, part of which revolves through a specially shut-in room. In this room men and animals are compelled to walk up the inclined plane to prevent their being crushed against the wall, and all their food and excreta are estimated, even to the air taken in and the gases given off by their skins. In walking up the inclined plane constantly revolving in the opposite direction, the animals remain stationary, and the amount of work done, depending on the rate of rotation, can be accurately determined.

Incidentally, continued Dr. Barber, an interesting discovery has been made by this contrivance, namely, that the animal mechanism throws all others into the shade in efficiency. The work done by the human machine, for instance, was found to be 33 per cent. of the food value, whereas in the steam engine it is from 5 to 20 per cent of the fuel used. No wonder, Dr. Barber went on to say, that the constant activity of childhood craves for interminable supplies of sweets. No wonder that our soldiers in the South African war were supplied with large quantities of jam and sugar with their rations. We read that the North American Indian,

when on the trail, used to reject all impedimenta except a drinking horn and a small packet of maple sugar. When he came to a stream, he filled his horn with water and shook a little sugar into it, and, after the draught, went on his way. This is in rather striking agreement with the experience of Sir Ernest Shackleton on one of his expeditions when the temperature fell to 62 degrees below zero. "Sugar," he writes, "has proved a great life preserver and sustainer in Arctic regions. On one occasion we had to march 321 miles in 14 days dragging laden sledges. Every hour we took 2-3 lumps of sugar each. Within ten minutes of eating this, we could feel the heat going through our bodies,"—this heat presumably being caused by the feeding of the muscles on the sugar. But it is unnecessary to multiply examples. Indeed it seems likely enough that our high national requirements of sugar will be exceeded in the present war, and that the foresight of the Government may be of greater consequence in the fighting line than is generally supposed.

### THE BAY OIL INDUSTRY.

#### Its development advocated.

An interesting article on the subject of the West Indies and the production of Bay oil has appeared in the August number of the *Perfumery and Essential Oil Record*. After pointing out that the journal in question has for some years urged, on a general principle, the extension of aromatic plant cultivation in parts of the world where climate and soil lend themselves to suitable propagation, the article goes on to say:—

But this broad advocacy of a wise policy has been conditioned, directly or implicitly, by considerations of present sources of supply of, and the ruling market conditions in, any particular oil under consideration. Now this propagation propaganda, because it in a measure accords with their pre-conceived ideas, has engaged the attention of agricultural authorities in some of the West Indian islands, particularly in respect of bay leaf. The excellent quality of the Porto Rico bay oil and rum needs no extolling, and they find a large consumption in the United States. Again, during comparatively recent years a growing trade in bay rum, notably with Central America, has been developed in the Danish island of St. Thomas, due partly to the good supply of bay leaves from the neighbouring island of St. Jan (no leaves being grown in St. Thomas), and partly to the low import duties on rum and alcohol in the latter island. But, as Mr. W. C. Fishlock, the Agricultural Instructor at Virgin Islands, has not long ago stated, there appears no reason why the British West Indian Islands should not participate in the oil trade if handicapped by fiscal conditions from joining in the bay rum industry. Bay trees of the proper variety are found in Antigua, Barbuda, Dominica, and Montserrat, among other islands, and the agricul-

tural officials there have in late years taken steps to free both the leaf and the oil from the suspicion that careless collection and distillation formerly imparted to them. The Government experimental plots and attention to distillation has led to more extended cultivation in some of the islands of the right kind of trees (*Pimenta* or *Myrcia acris*), and there has also been a proposal for Government certification of the resulting oil.

Having made distinct advance towards the production of the oil in a well-regulated manner, and in view of a marked disposition (notably in Montserrat) to plant considerable areas, the agricultural officers are naturally concerning themselves keenly with the possible outlets for the potential increased production. To avoid over-production is a first consideration, especially in the case of an oil at present used practically for one purpose—bay rum. As a source of eugenol, bay oil, as we pointed out last month, could not compete with clove and cinnamon leaf oils, and it is obvious that it would have to find employment in other directions. Having regard to its delightful fragrance, we think a considerable extension of its use could be found in soaps and other toilet articles, and we hope to hear of British makers giving it a fair trial.

Another aspect of the question which enters into the commercial consideration of the Colonial planters is the valuation of the oil. To purchase bay oil solely on phenol content is not encouraging to the honest producer in that it provides an opening for sophistication by unscrupulous dealers with eugenol from clove oil or cinnamon leaf oil, just as cinnamic aldehyde from a cheap source may be added to true cinnamon bark oil. We have only to recall the remarks of a certain American writer (already criticised) to appreciate how ready people are to fall into and justify this kind of faking. Arguing that an impure oil may sometimes be of better quality than a strictly pure oil, he said: 'An oil of cinnamon bark low in aldehyde may be, and possibly often is, improved by the addition of aldehyde from other sources, or an oil of bay deficient in phenol, as frequently happens, may be brought up to the standard by judicious admixture with eugenol obtained elsewhere.'

No! Oils must be judged not alone by the content of one particular constituent, but by all their chemical, physical, and olfactory factors. We lately had before us two bay oils—one containing 45 per cent. phenols and the other (rs. per lb. more) 55 per cent., but the delightful odour of bay oil was much more marked in the former than in the latter. There is, in fact, no question that bodies present in small quantities give certain oils their distinctiveness, and in many cases their value—bay oil being such an one. Its perfume is materially influenced by the proportion of constituents which modify the eugenol odour, and of these constituents myrcene in its original or polymerised form plays no insignificant part, not only in respect of odour, but of specific gravity and other physical properties. The considerable differences in the bay oils of commerce indicate the urgency of the investigations we have

in hand on the changes taking place on exposure of myrcene, which probably cause the marked variation in specific gravity compared with eugenol-content—a variation very much wider than in the other eugenol-containing oils such as clove, pimento and cinnamon leaf. We hope that such investigations as this, and the official efforts in the West Indies to bring the production of this oil within controlled conditions will narrow down the difficulties in the valuation of the oil by its tests and by its characters.

## PAPER FROM MEGASS

The *Weekly Bulletin* of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, in speaking of the manufacture of paper from megass in Cuba, makes the following statement:—

In conjunction with the making of sugar from cane at Preston, another important industry is being conducted successfully in the manufacturing of wrapping paper from the by-product of sugar cane megass or pulp. The mill has now been in operation for a period of ten months and in the earlier stages was only operated as an experiment. The work was started in connection with and under the direction of the Wisconsin University laboratories where the original tests and experimental work were carried on, and the plant at Preston is now in charge of the graduates of this institution. A staff of 25 men is now employed in the mill, and four tons of paper is the daily output. The facilities and machinery at present provide only for the manufacture of several grades and weights of wrapping paper. Arrangements are now under way and the required machinery will be added for the manufacture of all grades of paper. The pulp runs about two tons to one of paper.

The buildings are of sheet metal construction, and are built fireproof. In the main building three elevations of the floors are used in transferring the pulp to paper.

The megass is carried from the sugar mill in cars to the paper mill, and then conveyed to the top floor of the paper factory; it is then shovelled to the floor below into "digester" tanks, where it is digested or boiled by live steam. The only difference noticeable to a layman in the manufacture of megass paper and wood pulp paper is the process of digestion or boiling in order to soften the stock to the desired point at which it can be beaten, which takes the place of grinding up the wood. The megass is transferred from the digesters to beaters and beaten into pulp, when chloride of lime is added to the pulp in the beaters (of which there are four), and when beaten to a sufficient consistency is dropped through pipes to retaining tanks on the floor below. From the retaining tanks the pulp is carried to the paper mill or machine, where a quantity of water is added to it to get the thin mixture. This is run over a wire screen and all the water is extracted by means of suction. The paper is then dried on the usual steam drums of a paper mill.

Three weights of wrapping paper are manufactured, of which the highest is 80 lbs. In the case of making paper from cane bagasse the necessary grinding is done at the mill in the production of sugar, which eliminates the process of manufacture at the paper mill.

The paper obtained from cane pulp is equal to, if not slightly better than, the paper manufactured from imported kraft stock, and it can be produced and marketed at a price considerably lower than that quoted for kraft paper.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

A copy of the West India Committee map of the West Indies now hangs in the recreation hut placed at the disposal of the West Indian Contingent at Seaford Camp by the Young Men's Christian Association. Orders for this map, which no offices of firms concerned in the West Indian trade should be without, continue to be received from every part of the world, and quite a number of copies have been sent to Canada and the United States.

The special price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 3d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 3d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

By virtue of Rule III. of the West India Committee, the subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40.) Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

A CORRESPONDENT has called attention to the omission of Jamaica from the list of countries from which cattle for slaughtering on arrival can now be landed at Avonmouth and Cardiff. We have made enquiries on the subject, and understand that there would be no objection to the extension of the privilege to Jamaica, though the issue of a special Order by the Board of Agriculture would be necessary. It is, however, doubtful whether, in view of the present good values for cattle in the island and the lack of shipping facilities, advantage would be taken of it.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

THE Board of Agriculture have published some interesting statistics in respect of the acreage under crops and live stock in England and Wales, on the 4th of June, as compared with the position on the same date last year. The total area in 1915 was 27,053,360 acres, as compared with 27,114,000 acres in 1914. Of this 10,955,640 acres consisted of arable land, as compared with 10,698,250 acres in 1914, the balance being under grass. There has, therefore, been a decrease in arable land to the extent of 32,610 acres, or 0.3 per cent.

Of the arable land, 362,610 acres, or 20.16 per cent. more, were planted in wheat than in 1914; while 158,420 acres, or 8.2 per cent. more, were planted in oats. This has been done at the expense of turnips and swedes, which show a deficiency of 113,330 acres, or 10.8 per cent., and of the other items of arable agriculture to a less extent. There were 186,210, or 3.2 per cent. more head of cattle than in 1914; 262,890, or 1.5 per cent. more sheep; and 61,450, or 2.5 per cent. less pigs. Horses showed a deficiency of 112,370, or 8 per cent.

In the *Bulletin* of the Department of Agriculture of the Federated Malay States, Messrs. Brooks and Sharples publish the results of an investigation started in 1914 in connection with the "pink" disease of rubber trees, the cause of which is the fungus *Colletotrichum Salomonicolor*. The trees mostly attacked are those over two years of age, and the favourite points of assault are the forks, the shady portions of the trunk; in fact, any parts where moisture lingers. In dry weather the symptoms diminish, with, perhaps, complete recovery.

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At the Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in India a series of experiments in connection with the silk worm industry has been started, and in a *Bulletin* of that institution, Mr. M. N. De gives a report of the results so far obtained. Mr. De concluded that indigenous multivoltine mongrel races yield more silk than pure races, that pure multivoltine eggs, obtained from the female moths which have been fertilized by males of the same race, produced from a different locality, yield better silk and are more resistant to disease than eggs obtained by crossing the moths of the same locality.

MESSRS. BLAKESLEE and D. E. Warner, in a recent article in *Science*, give some interesting results from their investigations as to the yellow pigment of the domestic fowl in relation to its egg-laying activity. In Leghorns, they say, the colour of the ear lobes is perhaps a better criterion of laying activity than that of either the legs or beak. It is believed that laying removes yellow pigment with the yolks more rapidly than it can be replaced by normal metabolism, and in consequence the ear lobes, the beak, and the legs become pale by this abstraction of pigment.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE Right Rev. Walter Farrar, D.D., Bishop of British Honduras, finding that the state of his health will not permit of his continuing to live in a tropical climate, has accepted the appointment of Vicar of Bognor.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Mr. Guy E. Ponsonby, of the Central Oilfields of Trinidad, only son of the Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby, and Irene, eldest daughter of Mr. H. Greig, late of Mount Cedros, Trinidad.

THE *Mauricien*, of Mauritius, in an "extraordinary" edition publishes telegrams among which is an account of the visit of the King and Queen to St. Paul's. The French version, speaking of the Archbishop of Canterbury's address, says: "Il comença par des traits inspirés de l'antiquité," and this has been translated, "He opened by inspiring strains on the rock ages"! This in a British Crown Colony!

INTENDING passengers by the Royal Mail Steamers from Tilbury will be glad to learn that arrangements have been made for the mail train to leave St. Pancras instead of Fenchurch Street. The arrangements at the latter station were the subject of complaint in a letter from Major Becher, published in the CIRCULAR of August 28th. Messrs Ross and Norton also wrote to complain to the Company, with the satisfactory results now announced.

To show how much the gifts of fruit from Trinidad, Jamaica, and Dominica are welcomed, Miss Gwendolyn G. Norris, who is attending to the Provision Department at the Red Cross depot at Reading, writes: "I only wish the West Indian planters could see how very much the fruit is appreciated. We are constantly being rung up and appealed to for limes by the different matrons, and the men will leave anything for an orange."

In the absence of Jute, says the *India Rubber World*, Germany is to use "textilose." This is prepared by spreading paper on a gauze fibre and cutting the product into strips, which can then be cut into yarn and woven in a similar manner to other paper yarns. The factories are said to be producing about 44,000 pounds of textilose per day, and it is said that over £2,000,000 have been subscribed for the production of this jute substitute in Germany and abroad.

An interesting personality passed away in Dr. Carlos Finlay, who has just died in Havana. Dr. Finlay was the son of a Scotchman who settled in Cuba, and was born in 1833, his mother being a Frenchwoman. "The whole tropical world is interested in him, inasmuch as he was the scientist to associate the mosquito with yellow fever before

the relation of this insect to ordinary malaria had been discovered," says the *Louisiana Planter*. Thirty years ago he announced in a paper read before a Cuban scientific association that the mosquito was responsible for the spread of yellow fever.

COLONEL SIR EDWARD WARD, who has consented to act as one of the Hon. Treasurers of the West Indian Contingent Committee, has a distinguished record of public service. He was assistant Adjutant-General during the siege of Ladysmith, and it was in great measure due to the admirable commissariat arrangements which he then made that the garrison was able to hold out until relief came. From 1895 to 1899 he was Hon. Secretary of the Royal Military Tournament, and he filled the important post of permanent Under Secretary of State for War from 1901 to 1914.

INTEREST attaches to the passage of the first American battleship through the Panama Canal from the fact that it was the 13,000-mile voyage of the *Oregon* from the Pacific to the Atlantic to join the main fleet at the beginning of the Spanish-American War that brought the question of piercing the Isthmus to a head in 1898. The *Missouri*, *Ohio*, and *Wisconsin* passed through the Canal in perfect safety in July last. The report of the Commander shows that the entire United States main battleship fleet, made up of four divisions of five ships each, and a flagship, a total of twenty-one, could be passed through the Canal in one day.

In order to secure uniformity, and to stop overlapping, a central organisation is being formed, under the direction of Colonel Sir Edward Ward, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., to co-ordinate the work of collecting comforts, etc. Pending the formation of this body, voluntary workers are requested to concentrate their efforts on making mufflers and mittens according to the following specification:—

Mufflers.—Of fleeced wool, drab shades, 58 inches long, 10 inches wide.

Mittens.—Of knitted wool, drab shades, with short thumbs and no fingers, eight inches long from wrist to knuckle.

During the year to date 85 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	13	Dominica	1
British Guiana	10	Anguilla	1
Barbados	9	Bahamas	1
Tobago	6	British Honduras	1
Jamaica	5	Nevis	1
Montserrat	5	Colombia	1
Antigua	4	Venezuela	1
St. Vincent	4	London	10
Grenada	3	Country	5
St. Kitts	3		

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free rs. 3d.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

LESS has been heard lately of the movement initiated by the late Government for capturing our enemies' trade. The Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade opened a very interesting exhibition of articles "made in Germany" and Austria for the benefit of our manufacturers, but it was far from complete. The attention of the Board was called to the absence of German and Austrian beet sugar, upon which most of our refineries and confectioners battered before the war. No notice was taken, however, for Government departments always fight shy of sugar, and the Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is no exception to the rule.

\* \* \*

WHAT will happen after the war? Will our consumers go slavishly back to German and Austrian sugar? We hope not, and we do not believe that the public will be in a mood to spend millions of money on countries whose "kultur" has prompted them to perpetrate so many appalling acts of frightfulness, which might be spent to so much better advantage within the Empire. In this connection it is of interest to note that an Anti-German League has just been formed in London. It aims at enrolling a million members who will pledge themselves to hold everything German taboo. "Remember the *Lusitania*" should be its watchword.

\* \* \*

A SERIES of Zeppelin raids, one of which, as officially announced, was on the Metropolis, leaves London comparatively unperturbed, though considerably darker at night. If, as is believed to be the case, the aim of the Germans is to create a panic and a "stop-the-war" movement, it has failed completely. Life in London goes on just the same as usual, and the people were never more determined to carry on the war to a successful conclusion than they are now. The raids undoubtedly stimulate recruiting. They also result in the internment of more Germans, of whom the latest to be sent to the concentration camps have been the late managers of the Ritz and Carlton Hotels.

\* \* \*

URING the fortnight there has been a repetition—though, fortunately, on a much smaller scale—of the panic buying of comestibles which characterised the early days of the war. Last year the cause was to be found in the fear of a food famine—a poor compliment to our Navy; but now the heavy purchases are attributable to the belief that increased duties will be imposed on foodstuffs. Little can be done to check the impulses of householders directly. Indirectly, however, the Government has taken action in the matter by limiting the clearance of dutiable articles from bonded warehouses to the average of those in June, July, and August. This decision has caused a good deal of heart-burning and considerable inconvenience; but no one should cavil at that, since the revenue will benefit.

APART from the Premier's and Lord Kitchener's statements in Parliament on the progress of the war, Mr. Lloyd George's speech to the members of the Trade Unions Conference at Bristol, which is published in the newspapers, and must be read to be appreciated, the most notable utterance of the fortnight was made by the Archdeacon of St. Paul's. In a sermon in the Cathedral on Sunday, the 12th, he said:—

"I tell you that to one hospital alone were taken the dead bodies of little children of fifteen, ten, seven and five years, and one little baby, so that the nursery became a slaughterhouse.

"Of the Imperial murderer who allowed it, if he did not order it, all we can say is, in the words of the Psalmist—the most awful punishment ever given to a man—I will set before thee the things that thou hast done."

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SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE, for many years identified with the Canadian Pacific Railway, who died on September 11th, frequently wintered in the West Indies. After the completion of the C.P.R. transcontinental line, he turned his attention to Cuba, then a Spanish colony, and devoted much energy to railway development in that island. Later he began to show a practical interest in Jamaica also, which he linked with Cuba by a steamship line from Santiago to Port Antonio and Kingston. This has proved very popular among tourists. There are many who hope that the new concern formed by the Canadian Pacific Railway to take over its steamship services may some day run steamers down the islands and erect the hotels suitable for tourists which are at present so badly needed in most parts of the British West Indies.

THE substitution of women and girls for men in various fields of employment is becoming more and more noticeable in London. Our tickets on the "Underground" are now issued and clipped by women; there are lift women in the hotels and waitresses in all the Clubs; and the errand-boy, who can now earn better wages in other spheres of action, is being rapidly replaced by the errand-girl. The Banks, and notably the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," are employing quite a number of women clerks to fill the ranks depleted by the call to the new Armies, and the female right to work is being asserted in every direction. Ladies are taking up motoring as they never did before, and not a few are driving the delivery cars of such large stores as Harrods, and are thus enabling the men they relieve to join the Colours, while they devote the salaries they receive to the various relief funds.

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APROPOS of the remarks in a leading article in this issue on the lack of knowledge of Imperial matters in this country, it is satisfactory to learn that the League of the Empire has arranged for Mr. Adkins, M.A., to deliver a series of lectures on the Empire and the War. The first will be delivered at the League of the Empire Club on October 5th at 5.30 p.m.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The mails received by the R.M.S. *Danube*, which arrived in the Thames on September 6th, were delivered too late to permit of their being dealt with in last CIRCULAR. For purpose of record, however, the letters received from our Honorary Correspondents are summarised below.

### ANTIGUA—A German Prize wrecked at Barbuda.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, AUGUST 19th.—The weather had been unsettled and there were high north-east winds and other symptoms of an approaching hurricane on the 16th, which caused some alarm, but fortunately the disturbance passed Antigua by. Otherwise the weather had been favourable for the growing crop, which promised to be a big one.

The Government merchantman *Pelorusa*, a German prize, ran ashore at Barbuda during the gale and was a total wreck. The chief mate and twenty of her men reached Antigua in an open boat, and the captain and twenty-three men in another boat safely reached St. Kitts. There was a local saying, "Barbuda never gives up anything," and the recent wrecks pointed to the need of more lighthouses.

The annual sale of Barbuda sheep was successfully held on the 13th inst., mules and oxen changing hands at fair prices.

Bishop Mather's schoolroom had been the scene of an enthusiastic recruiting meeting for the West Indian Contingent. Mr. Best, the Acting-Governor, presided, and was supported by the Bishop, the Chief Justice, the Inspector of Police, and Dr. Maguire, Rector of St. Paul's. On the 8th a service was held in the Cathedral to commemorate the first anniversary of the outbreak of war, at which special reference was made to the death of Mr. "Jack" Percival, for whom a Requiem Mass was celebrated on the 1st, which was attended by all classes and included the Acting-Governor and the members of the Defence Force.

### BAHAMAS—A Great Patriotic Meeting.

The Governor, Hon. W. L. Allardyce, presided over a patriotic meeting in St. Andrew's Hall, Nassau, on August 4th, and moved a resolution supporting the Government in its determination to bring the war to a victorious conclusion. Among those supporting His Excellency on the platform were the following members of the Executive Committee of the Bahamas War Relief Fund—Mr. W. C. B. Johnson, Acting Chairman, Mrs. T. H. C. Loftouse, Mrs. F. T. Diggs, Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., His Lordship the Bishop, Messrs. Jas. M. Rae, G. Weech, S. Albert Dillet, W. A. Mather and Frank Holmes (Hon. Secretary)—and His Honour the Chief Justice, Hon. G. H. Gamblin, the Revs. S. J. Bennett and W. H. F. Bleby and Messrs. G. M. Cole and Chas. O. Anderson. Mr. Allardyce made an impressive speech, and the resolution, which was seconded by the Hon. C. O. Anderson, was carried with enthusiasm. It was decided to open a "Bahamas Contingent Fund," Mr. and Mrs. Allardyce heading the list with a donation of 100 guineas.

### BARBADOS—The War Anniversary Meeting.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., AUGUST 24th.—Patriotic speeches were delivered by the House of Assembly on August 4th, when the following resolution was moved by Hon. C. P. Clarke, seconded by Dr. Gooding, and passed *nem. con.*—"That on the anniversary of the declaration by Great Britain of the present righteous War against Germany the House of Assembly on behalf of the people of Barbados join heart and soul with the other units of the Empire in affirming the necessity for inflexible determination on the part of the Empire to continue to a victorious end the struggle for the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies, and they pledge themselves to do the utmost in their power to assist the Mother Country in the achievement of that noble purpose." The

House then agreed in principle to the proposal that Barbados should contribute towards the West Indian Contingent.

### BERMUDA—The Contingent's Popularity.

News regarding the Bermuda Contingent which is attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment and is now at the front is eagerly received. The men were trained for a short time at Grimsby, and a memento, bidding them Welcome and God-Speed was, however, forwarded to each one by post to the front.

With the object of advertising the islands in the United States the publication there of a paper to be called *The Bermuda-American* is contemplated.

### BRITISH GUIANA—Funds for the Local Contingent.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, AUGUST 21st.—A special meeting of the Combined Court was held on the 16th inst., when the cost of the British Guiana Contingent, estimated at £10,000, was voted. To meet this, as already recorded in the CIRCULAR, an export tax on rum has been imposed at 1 cent per proof gallon, rice 3½ cents per 100 lbs. Excise duty on rum consumed in the Colony 5 cents per proof gallon. Import duty 5 cents additional per proof gallon on spirits, and an additional stamp duty of 2 cents on every cheque issued. At the same meeting the Governor presented the Imperial Service Order to Dr. Ferguson.

The foundation-stone of the new Roman Catholic Cathedral was laid by the Governor on the 15th inst. On the following day a special parade of the Local Forces was held, when these gifts were distributed to the non-commissioned officers and men. Sir George Le Hunte, Governor of Trinidad, was visiting the Colony. The weather during the fortnight had been favourable for cultivation. It had been intensely hot with showers at intervals, and on the evening of the 10th instant a heavy thunderstorm had occurred, with a very vivid display of lightning for some hours.

### MONTSERRAT—Mr. and Mrs. Driver's departure.

MR. K. P. PENCHOEN, AUGUST 28th.—High winds and torrential rains were experienced on the night of the 16th-17th, which did more damage to the shipping than to the crops, though the latter suffered somewhat. The *Southern Cross*, the islands' only weekly means of communication with Antigua and St. Kitts, went adrift, but was salvaged off Nevis. People living in islands enjoying cable communications could hardly realise the plight of Montserrat with none. The weather had been too lazy for flashlight, and the island had been completely cut off.

The Hon. Fred and Mrs. Driver left the island by the *Bolantia* on August 6th. After many years' service as Attorney for the Montserrat Co., Ltd., and as a member of the Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, Mr. Driver had decided to retire and enjoy well-earned rest. Mr. and Mrs. Driver would be much missed by many friends who hoped that they might some day revisit the island. Before their departure they were presented with the wherewithal to purchase a piece of plate, and all wished them and their children "Bon voyage," and many happy years in the old country. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan (a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Driver) left by the same steamer for Dominica, where Mr. Duncan had got an appointment. Mr. W. Lewellyn Wall had accepted Mr. Driver's seat on the Legislative Council. Mr. Penchoen announced the sudden death, of paralysis, on the morning of writing, of Mr. A. E. Gilkes, manager of Amersham and Brodericks Estates, the property of the Trustees of the late Colonel Champion Jones, deceased.

### ST. VINCENT.—The fog end of a Cyclone.

MR. W. N. SANDS, AUGUST 20th.—On the 16th we had very wet, threatening weather, low barometer, 29.84", and heavy ground seas from the south and west. A lot of damage was done to lighters in the bay, and two schooners were driven ashore. Damage was also done to jetties along the west coast. There was very little wind at the Kingstown end of the island, but at the northern part heavy squalls were experienced. The heavy sea was quite

unexpected. Further north of us, particularly at Dominica and Jamaica, a good deal of damage was done by the hurricane. An examination of the young men who have sent in their names for the West India Contingent takes place on the 25th inst. So far, I understand, some 167 names have been sent in. Weather is very wet just now; we had over six inches of rain for 48 hours ended 9 a.m. 11th.

#### TOBAGO.—Enjoys its Indian Summer.

MR. G. DAVID HARR, AUGUST 20th.—Thanks to the satisfactory weather, the coco-nut trees have a healthy appearance. There are no dry branches on the ground, and no withered and yellow ones above. The trees are blossoming freely, and are laden with fruit, so that, given a continuance of heavy rains, the crop should be a large one. Tobacco is less promising, owing to the hot suns in May, which killed out quantities of nursery plants. A planter, writing to me from his cacao estate in the Windward district under date 6th August, says: "Crop prospects here are good, and if prices hold into the autumn we should do well; a great improvement on last year. We should begin to pick early in October." Native grown vegetables are both plentiful and cheap, thanks to the early lessons taught by the war. The rainfall for the past fortnight recorded at the Botanic Garden is 3.58 inches, and the hot season known as Indian summer has set in in earnest. Planters are experiencing difficulty in getting sufficient labour, not that the labourers are lazy and unwilling to work, but because nearly all of them possess their own holdings, and cannot always work for others. The present lowest rate of wages for men is 1s. 3d. per day for half the amount of work very indifferently done, as against 10d. paid 32 years ago for a fair task performed under proper supervision. And even at this figure labour is not easily obtainable. The truth is, the island wants population badly—even more so than capital. There are but 5,305 agricultural labourers of both sexes in a total population of 21,000; 3,970 industrial labourers, who work as well on the public road, and 11 peasant proprietors; these latter also employ labour, though not regularly. The exports for 1914 were valued at £71,311. As illustrating the healthy and invigorating climate of the island if care and prudence are observed, the last Census—1911—recorded 1,583 persons of from 60 to over 100 years of age. It is comforting news to learn that the Government are considering the advisability of improving the wireless station here to equal power as that at Port-of-Spain, which means that messages to London need only to be relayed at Bermuda. With cheap through rates, one should not suffer for want of quick mail communication. It is also decided to bridge the Louis d'Or and King's Bay rivers, thereby completing the chain of bridges from one end of the island to the other—the outcome of the recent visit of the Hon. the Director of Public Works and Mr. R. J. Scott Bushe, A.M.L.C.B. The anniversary of the declaration of war by Great Britain was not observed in Scarborough, but this unwise omission was not due to want of patriotism, apathy, or indolence on the part of the people. Mrs. J. Humphrey Sworder, of "Trafalgar," the very energetic Secretary of the local Red Cross Society, despatched last mail her second shipment, comprising two cases of clothing and comforts. A third shipment is in course of preparation. The Board of Agriculture is due to arrive here from Port-of-Spain on the 31st inst. and remain four days. The Supreme Court arrives on the 8th September; in its Criminal jurisdiction one case only is filed at date, for counterfeiting, etc., and two in its Summary; there are no magisterial appeals. The local authorities have at last succeeded in converting the currency into a paper one, by the simple expedient of importing paper money from time to time from headquarters to meet their liabilities. As this scheme has been in existence for some time now, the scarcity of silver and copper coin causes considerable inconvenience to everyone. The late Mr. Alefounder, who died on the R.M.S. *Danube* homeward bound between Barbados and the Azores in the early part of July, was the owner of the Studley Park and Moutrose coco-nut, cacao, and sugar estates in Tobago—fertile and well-watered properties bordering on the sea coast six miles from Scarborough. His death is greatly regretted.

#### TRINIDAD—Active Military Preparations.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUGUST 23rd.—Good progress is being made with recruiting for the public Contingent, and a number of men are in barracks. The Merchants' Contingent is also growing, and is likely to be nearer 100 than the original number of 50 contemplated. The difficulty now is to find transport. The Royal Mail have offered liberal terms, but it seems doubtful if passage room can be provided before . . . The Demerara Contingent is now in the harbour, proceeding by the *Danube* to England to-day. They will have the honour of being first to arrive. It is said there are 120 of them. Inspector (Captain) Harragin (Bertie) and Sub-Inspector (Captain) Cavanaugh, will go with the Public Contingent. Also, it is understood, Major A. McCulloch, of the Trinidad Light Horse, who has seen much active service. The Governor returned from Demerara this morning, and proceeds on a visit to the Northern Islands before his term of office here expires in October. The weather continues all that could be desired. I regret to have to record the almost sudden death of Mr. Louis Wharton, K.C., a barrister in large practice in the colony at the comparatively early age of 53. Mr. Wharton held the post of Examiner of Titles and Legal Adviser to the Registrar-General. He has on several occasions acted as Solicitor-General and Attorney-General, and was universally admitted to be a sound lawyer. He leaves a large family, including one son who has recently left the study of the law in England to proceed to the front with the Honourable Artillery Company. Mr. Wharton is one of the number of Scholarship Winners of the St. Mary's College who have added much to the credit of their native land in their after career.

### OUR LIBRARY.

**The Rubber Industry**, being the official report of the fourth International Rubber Congress, held in London in 1914, together with the papers read and the discussions thereon. Edited by Joseph Torrey, Ph.D., and A. Staines Mauders. London: The International and Allied Trades Exhibition, Ltd. 15s. 6d. net.

**Proceedings of the Third International Congress of Tropical Agriculture**; including abstracts supplied by the authors, and reports of the discussions. London: John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.

The first-named of these two volumes, which is dedicated to Sir Henry Blake, forms a very complete record of the Congress which was held in London last year in connection with the fourth International Rubber and Allied Trades Exhibition. It contains many valuable papers, some of which were read and others taken as read, and consequently presented to the rubber world for the first time, and it contains also an account of the several successful functions held during the run of the Exhibition, including the West India Committee on Dominion Day, at which Sir Ernest Shackleton made his important speech as to the merits of cane sugar, which, we are glad to note, is given *in extenso*. The various awards made at the Show are also recorded, and in appearance and matter the volume reflects great credit on Dr. Torrey and Mr. Staines Mauders, who, it will be remembered, was the Secretary of the Rubber and Tropical Products Exhibition. The second volume, which bears more official imprimatur, is more Catholic in the subjects dealt with. Thus a glance over the pages reveals a paper on Cotton by Mr. J. A. Hutton, a paper on Sanitation and Hygiene on Tropical Estates by Dr. A. L. Sanson and Mr. F. D. Evans, one on Soil Fertility by Dr. H. A. Tempamy, besides several papers and subsequent discussions on Cacao Cultivation which should make a strong appeal to the West Indian reader.

Copies of both of the volumes noticed above can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.



## WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

## The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.

The net result of the year's working is an available balance of £10,679 2s. 9d., as compared with £10,187 16s. 7d. for the previous year. The balance to credit of Revenue Account, which was last year £11,459 5s. 9d., has been debited with £1,500 applied to dividend, and with £7,589 6s. 9d. expended in repairs and renewals during the year, and credited with £7,679 2s. 9d. surplus revenue of the past year, and it now stands at £10,049 1s. 9d. During the year the Company's cable was interrupted on three occasions—by a fishing boat's anchor, by a dredger, and finally by chafing in deep water, where it was found to be in good mechanical condition. The expenditure on repairs has consequently been very heavy. The £7,589 6s. 9d. mentioned above was the cost of the first, second, and part of the third interruption. The balance of the cost of the third accident has not yet been ascertained. At the Annual General Meeting on September 16th the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. free of income tax, making 6 per cent. for the year, leaving £7,679 2s. 9d. to be carried forward, was approved, and the Shareholders also approved the establishment of a pension scheme for the staff.

## The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The production for week ended Wednesday, 1st Sept. was 902 tons, and for the week ended Wednesday, 8th September, 827 tons.

Latest Quotations.		PRICE
denom.		Sept. 18
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1925	94
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94 1/2
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1924	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
4 %	The Colonial Bank	80 1/2-81 1/2
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	83 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	90 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	87 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	87 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	147
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	5/9
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/2 shares) ...	2/3-2/6
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	1 1/2
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	28
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	102
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ...	74
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	85
1/5	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	27 1/4
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. 1st Pref.	83
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd ...	83
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	99 1/2

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

A LIST of publications to be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms will be forwarded post free upon request.

## VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. A. K. Agar  
Major F. F. Beecher  
Mr. A. Campbell  
Mr. J. W. Calhoun  
Mr. Cecil H. Chambers  
Hon. H. Ferguson  
Mr. E. Fitzgerald  
Mr. W. M. Flecher  
Mr. A. T. Hammond  
Mrs. E. Haynes  
His Honour Leslie  
Jarvis  
Mr. M. Moody-Stuart  
Mr. A. E. Perkins  
Mr. W. C. Robertson  
Mr. W. F. Stannels  
Mr. R. B. Short  
Mr. W. Smith  
and  
Mr. F. H. S. Warneford

Mr. J. R. Bancroft, c/o Messrs. Samuel Dobree & Son, 7, Moorgate St., E.C.  
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Road, Hove, Sussex.  
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessell Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey  
Hon. P. J. Dean, St. Brannocks, Mundesley, Norfolk.  
Mr. Fred Driver, 68, Hartley Road, Nottingham.  
Mr. T. L. Dunstun, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 35, Rood Lane, E.C.  
Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisborough Green, Sussex.  
Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.  
Mr. J. A. Gordon, c/o C. W. Stevens, Esq., 16, Great St. Helens, E.C.  
Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
Mr. H. R. Howes, Strand Palace Hotel, Strand, W.C.  
Mr. S. W. Mathews, The Plains, Wetheral, Carlisle.  
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
Mr. H. C. Moreton, Great Meols, Cheshire.  
Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Camden Gardens, N.W.  
Mr. J. J. Rodrigues, c/o Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons, 119, Cannon St., E.C.  
The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
Mr. E. C. Skinner, c/o R.M.S.P. Co., 18, Moorgate Street, E.C.  
Mr. S. H. Taylor, Charterhouse Hotel, Charterhouse Square, E.C.  
Mr. J. B. Wirth, c/o Miss Hobills, 13, Beaumont Street, W.  
Mr. H. F. Wildy, 49, Church Lane, Hove, N.

## WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavigler), Sept. 13th, "Fine rains generally throughout the islands," British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Sept. 20th, "Rain wanted." Jamaica (The Direct West Indian Cable Co.), week ending August 25th: Port Antonio, 19th to 21st "Rain," 22nd to 25th "Fine"; Kingston 19th to 20th "Fine," 21st to 22nd "Rain," 23rd to 25th "Fine."

## MARRIAGE.

Furness - Cuthbert. —At St. Oswald's Church, Edinburgh, on August 7th, by the Rev. J. H. Witherspoon, D.D., assisted by the Rev. E. Walters (Macleod Church, Glasgow) and the Rev. J. M. Hunt (late of Belize, British Honduras), Harold Sydney Furness, M.D., of Melton Mowbray, fourth son of the late Mr. R. P. Furness, Preston, and Jean Margaret, eldest daughter of the Hon. Sydney and Mrs. Cuthbert, Belize, British Honduras.

BULLETIN 45 of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* publishes some interesting figures on the loss sustained by exposure of pen manure to air and rain. In the case of eight ton heaps exposed for 4 1/2 months, the loss of nitrogen in the open was 28.4 per cent., and under cover 20.4 per cent.; of phosphoric acid, in the open 21.1 per cent., under cover none; of potash, in the open 28.3 per cent., under cover none. It was found, also, that the loss on manures stored in the open could amount in a few months to one-fifth of the total weight; but that this loss was considerably reduced when peat moss litter was used instead of straw. Experiment also proved that manure which was drilled into the soil just before the growing season gave over twice the return than when broadcasted on the land in autumn.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

British Guiana.			Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Aug. 12, 1915			Jan. 1 to Aug. 8, 1915		
Sugar	51,895	43,600 Tons.	12,117	10,971 Tons.	
Molasses		827 Punns.			
Rum	2,371,741	1,837,758 Galls.	796,183	975,360 Galls.	
Molascuit. &c.	1,073	1,065 Tons			
Cacao	56,734	33,447 lbs.	6,340,688	6,616,176 lbs.	
Coffee	161,649	238,746	5,215,168	5,705,736	
Coco-nuts	1,229,040	1,186,671 No.	17,351,016	17,515,388 No.	
Oranges			2,253,100	2,470,950	
Bananas			6,872,801	11,598,013 Sieurs.	
Cotton					
Pimento			35,769	61,661 Cwts.	
Ginger			8,262	16,681	
Honey			94,943	137,217 Galls.	
Jaywoods			28,462	39,491 Tons	
Gold	35,299	37,420 Ozs.			
Diamonds	471	9,517 Carats.			
Rice	14,203,338	9,807,953 lbs.			
Coluber	862,152	417,404			
Robber	1,929	782			
Timber	88,336	153,424 cub. ft.			
Lumber	86,821	216,520 ft.			
Lime (citrate of)	7,938	2,421 lbs.			

Trinidad.			St. Vincent.		
Jan. 1 to July 27, 1915			Jan. 1 to June 30, 1915		
Sugar	39,533	39,666 Tons	3,027,575	2,884,745 lbs.	
Molasses	2,335	3,296 Punns.	Cacao	102,151	126,819
Rum	4,430	769	Cotton	212,917	505,222
Coco-nuts	6,038,915	10,024,045 No.	Seed	378,639	707,028
Asphalt	59,441	195,188 Tons.			
Manjak	159	171			
Bitters	9,730	10,907 Cases.			
Coffee	10,240	13,440 lbs.			
Crude Petrol	4,077,398	11,932,252 Galls.			
Cacao	42,551,400	29,196,000 lbs.			
Cotton					
Seed					
Couira	16,217	5,796 Bags.			
Spice					
Kola					

Barbados.			Grenada.		
Jan. 1 to Aug. 12, 1915			Oct. 1 to Aug. 12, 1914/15		
	27,876	29,827 Tons	11,111,940	11,667,680 lbs.	
	45,377	90,337 Punns.	1,188	1,372 Bales	
			1,814	3,555 Bags.	
			273	196	
			1,222,720	1,189,280 lbs.	
			5,180	8,030	

**BANK RATE** — remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 97½ cum rights and 97% ex rights. Old War Loan at 92½. Consols stand at 65.

**SUGAR** — The shortage of cube sugar is becoming very marked, and consumers do not yet seem to realize that granulated sugar serves their purpose quite as well as the "lump" variety. The result is that in some instances retailers have raised the price to 4s. per lb., ½d. above the Government limit. As the sugar does not cost them any more than when there was a better supply, this is inexcusable in present circumstances. The Sugar Commission sanctions a price higher than the fixed limit when there has been some especial circumstance, such as abnormal freight charge, but does not countenance money grabbing transactions of this description on the part of retail grocers, and is selling cube sugar wholesale at the same price as heretofore. Any instance of this description, where the customer is exploited by the shopkeeper is at once enquired into by the Commission if the case is referred to it. It may be pointed out in this connection that the output of the refineries of the United Kingdom for August was 65,265 tons, about 3,000 tons less than the average monthly output for the year. Want of labour is assigned as the cause.

The Board of Trade Returns show that 137,269 tons of sugar were imported during August, a figure below the average, and stocks on the 31st as being 148,700, as against 182,250 tons on the 31st July. The imports of refined included 6,853 tons from Holland, 36,835 tons from the United States, and 2,911 tons from the Argentine. Among the imports of unrefined were 13,770 tons from Java, 54,065 tons from Cuba, 12,553 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana, 4,712 tons from Mauritius, and 523 tons from Peru.

All attempts at speculation in the way of taking sugar out of bond in anticipation of a high duty being imposed have been frustrated by the Government only allowing average amounts of dutiable commodities to be taken out of bond prior to the Budget declaration.

The quantity of Dutch cubes imported from January to August was 77,800 tons of an initial value of £2,000,000. 20,000 tons of American granulated have been reported as purchased by the British Government at 20s. 6d. per ton f.o.b. New York, and later 10,000 tons at 19s. per cwt. The *Dromondy* has brought the first consignment of this crop's Java sugar, and a steady stream of it may be expected during the next six months. The white sugar market should thus be considerably relieved, and a constant supply of this sugar will tend to make consumers realize that white plantation sugars, even if not equal in appearance to refiners' granulated, are quite as good for dietary purposes.

The high price of sugar does not seem to have stimulated the production of beet sugar in this country. The area under cultivation is only 2,349 acres, and shows no sign of extension.

In the last Summary the prices at which the Government have taken over the Mauritius vesou crop were given as 17s. 6d., 17s. 2d., and 16s. 10d. per cwt. for the three grades respectively. Mail advices now give 17s. 4d., 17s. and 16s. 8d. as the several prices.

Up to the 11th inst. the Cuban crop amounted to 2,509,500 tons, with only one factory working. It is more than doubtful whether the crop will be over 2,550,000 tons. Last year there were 48,000 tons received at the shipping ports after that date, and if the same output is obtained, the total crop will be almost exactly that figure.

In last week's *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, M. George Dureau brings very strong evidence to bear on his claim that the war has terminated the Brussels Sugar Convention absolutely. If this is the case, and it would seem as if it were, Great Britain is freed from the pledge given to the signatories of the Convention, and is in a position at once to give preferential treatment to the

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Damiba*, (Commander W. Barrett), Tilbury, London, Sept. 6th.

Mr. J. Archer	Mr. J. Everest	Miss K. Mathews
Mrs. J. Archer	Mr. J. K. Forrest	Mr. W. D. McDougall
Mr. S. E. Ammon	Mr. F. Fors	Mrs. C. Mitchell
Mr. R. Bryson	Miss R. H. Grant	Miss E. Mitchell
Mr. W. F. Bryden	Mr. C. B. Golding	Master W. K. Mitchell
Mr. J. Babb	Mr. G. Grier	Mr. R. T. P. Morgan
Mr. R. H. Bonburry	Mr. W. Goodfellow	Mr. P. J. Parsons
Mr. E. M. R. Branch	Mr. E. Guissani	Mr. J. Quinn
Mr. J. C. Black	The Lord Bishop of Guiana	Mr. N. C. Rackstraw
Mr. E. Bill	Mr. F. Gilchrist	Very Rev. Dean H. Shepherd
Dr. C. Castor	Mr. H. R. Howes	Mrs. A. L. Shepherd
Mr. R. J. Craig	Mr. W. E. T. Harford	Mr. C. Studge
Mrs. F. M. Castor	Mr. J. W. Henry	Mr. W. L. Seymour
Miss Castor	Mr. H. E. Harper	Mr. C. Sheppard
Mr. C. E. L. Cox	Mr. J. Heyligers	Miss S. D. Sheppard
Mr. P. St. C. Christie	Mrs. A. Heyligers	Mrs. E. J. Sheldford
Rev. H. L. Dixon	Mr. T. T. Hickman	Mr. S. H. Taylor
Hon. & Mrs. F. Driver	Mr. R. Hamilton	Mr. A. C. Telfer
Mrs. C. R. Duff	Mr. R. James	Miss E. Taylor
Misses Duff (2)	Mr. C. R. Keyte	Mr. R. L. A. Underwood
Mr. T. Devaux	Mr. F. W. F. Kingdom	Mr. J. B. Waith
Miss L. Devaux	Mr. R. Kruger	Mr. G. M. Watt
Mr. O. L. Dinzey	Mr. J. H. McIntosh	Mr. H. F. Way
Mr. J. H. Donwell	Miss E. M. Middleton	Mr. O. L. Wallen
Mr. A. A. Dean	Miss L. McHugh	Mr. D. Wilson
Mr. E. J. M. Dryden	Mrs. L. Mathews	
Mr. F. M. Dowleen		

"The Banana : its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are concerned with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.

A company, with the title of the Ceylon Sugar Refineries, Ltd., has been formed in Ceylon. The object of the Company, of which the capital is £65,000, is to manufacture sugar out of the juice of the sugar palm. The refining of raw cane sugar is also included in the scheme.

The Sena Sugar Factory, Limited, a company manufacturing sugar in the Zambesi district, have just declared a dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £12,000 to general reserve, £10,000 to a special reserve, and £9,350 towards extinguishing preference shares. The price obtained for the sugar was 30s. per ton above the preceding year's price.

In the London market the demand for yellow grocery crystallised was maintained at auction sales on the 10th. 6,227 bags of Trinidad were part sold at 25s. 3d. to 26s.; 2,408 bags Jamaica fetched from 25s. to 25s. 6d.; 1,964 bags Demerara sold in part at 25s.; 655 bags Antigua sold at 25s. 6d. to 25s. 9d.; of 1,584 bags of St. Lucia, a small quantity sold at 25s. 3d. Syrups were in great demand, 199 bags of Demerara selling at 20s. 3d. Muscovado was quieter; 66 bags St. Lucia sold at 18s. 3d., and 24 hogsheads Barbados at 22s. to 22s. 6d. The Jamaica offered was bought in. At auction on the 14th, only 321 tons were offered, and for the most part bought in, 261 tons being subsequently sold at late rates. On the 17th 1,468 tons crystallised, muscovados, and syrups were offered, of which 964 tons sold at previous prices. Of 2,228 bags Demerara put up, 1,306 sold at from 26s. to 27s. 3d. 4,114 bags out of 7,112 bags Trinidad fetched from 25s. to 26s. 6d. Of 4,028 bags Jamaica, 3,291 bags sold at 24s. 9d. to 25s. Of 529 bags St. Kitts, 288 were disposed of at 24s. 9d. The Antigua lot of 600 bags, was bought in. 454 bags of Jamaica muscovado were offered, of which 214 bags were sold at prices ranging from 21s. to 22s. 6d. 86 barrels St. Lucia sold at 17s. 3d. to 17s. 9d. 171 bags of Trinidad syrups were sold at 16s. 3d. to 17s. 6d.; 237 bags Demerara at 20s. 6d. to 21s.; and 191 bags St. Kitts at 21s. 3d. to 21s. 6d. At to-day's sales,

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to September 11th are—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	39,115	25,358	34,419	23,792	32,223
Deliveries ...	30,417	24,552	21,262	22,200	27,131
Stock (Sept. 11)	14,707	13,758	14,997	6,082	9,452

The New York market has exhibited a distinctly lower tendency. On the 8th inst. the value of 96° duty-paid sugars went down from \$4.54 to \$4.45, and of granulated from \$5.55 to \$5.30, in spite of further buyings of granulated for Europe. On the 16th a further drop to \$4.39 for 96° sugar was recorded, and on the 18th to \$4.27, with granulated at \$5.20.

**RUM** — The market is firm, and prices are at the date of last Summary. Demerara may be quoted at 28s. 9d. to 35s. per proof gallon, and Jamaica at 48s. 2d. to 48s. 9d. per liquid gallon.

The Board of Trade returns show that in August 1,304,740 proof gallons of rum entered the United Kingdom, as against 278,843 gallons in August last year. In all, for the first eight months of the year 6,570,141 proof gallons have been imported, as against 4,101,273 for the same period of 1914.

The stocks in London on September 11th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	4,865	8,516	7,603	9,336	11,080
Demerara ...	5,256	9,440	7,793	6,460	4,961
Total, all kinds	20,461	25,191	22,880	23,633	25,603

**CACAO** — The Board of Trade figures show that cacao continues to arrive in this country at a still increasing rate. In August last year 4,121,786 pounds were imported; this August 23,592,254 pounds were imported—nearly six times as much. For the first eight months of the present year 143,685,393 pounds have been imported, as against 64,612,228 pounds last year, or only 2½ times as much. The exports, in spite of the prohibition as regards certain neutral countries, continue very high. Last year, in August 5,274,112 pounds were exported, as against 712,597 pounds in August, 1914. To date, for this year 40,009,014 pounds have been

exported, as against 10,134,710 pounds for the first eight months of 1914. This August the ratio of imports to exports is as 5.7 to 1; last August as 5.8 to 1. The prohibition, therefore, appears to have no effect on the export trade.

The recent Parliamentary White Book on the subject of the long-standing question of the St. Thomé and Principe labour supply seems to show that the unpleasant items of the labour system have been got rid of by the Portuguese Government, and that consequently cocoa manufacturers need have no compunction in using St. Thomé cacao.

At auction sale on the 14th a small quantity was offered, but there was little demand, and nearly all was bought in. At private sales 85s. to 86s. was given for Trinidad, and 72s. for Jamaica of ordinary quality.

Cacao stocks in London on September 11th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	13,388	9,639	13,023	7,680	8,873
Grenada ...	5,457	7,778	5,368	4,607	12,217
Total, all kinds	111,284	90,065	80,796	117,313	115,644

**COTTON** — The quantity of West Indian cotton imported into the United Kingdom from the 1st of January to the 16th inst. has been 4,447 bales, of which 76 bales were imported during the last week.

**ARROWROOT** is steady but quiet. Sales reported of St. Vincent are under 200 barrels. Quotation 2d. to 4½d.

**SPICES** — There has been an advance in values of Nutmegs and Mace. Nutmegs, 100/80's are quoted at 4½d. to 6½d.; 120/100's, 4½d. to 4½d.; 140/120's, 4½d. to 4½d. Mace, good to fine, is worth 2s. 2d. to 2s. 7d.; red to good, 1s. 7d. to 2s. 1d.; broken, 6d. to 1s. 6d.

**GINGER** — Market quiet, but firm; 55s. to 75s. may be quoted for common small clean to bold bright. Pimento is valued at 1½d. to 2d.

**LIME PRODUCTS** — **Lime Oil** At auction on the 9th, 7s. 6d. was paid for distilled, but this price is now unobtainable. Hand-pressed is quiet, with no business to report. **Lime Juice** There is no enquiry for raw, and a fall in value is inevitable in the face of fair quantities offering. Concentrated is steady at £30, but no business is reported.

**RUBBER** — The market for plantation has been quiet, with slow demand and slightly lower prices. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2s. 3½d. Para rubbers have been quiet, with fine hard at 2s. 4½d., and soft at 2/3½d. Castilloa sheet may be quoted at 2s. 1d.; scrap at 1s. 6d.

**BALATA** — Block is again lower with sellers at 1s. 8d. c.i.f. and 1s. 9d. landed terms. Sheet is inactive. Sellers' forward shipments, 2s. 3½d. c.i.f. Spot business done at 2s. 4½d.

**COPRA** — No business has been reported in West Indian during the fortnight. Value may be quoted as £24 c.i.f. London for September-October shipment.

**HONEY** — Lower. Quotations 26s. to 36s. for low dark to fine pale liquid.

**MANURES** — The market for Sulphate of Ammonia is steady, and £15 per ton may be given as the value. Nitrate of Soda is firm, with prices ranging from £13 5s. to £13 7s. 6d. There is good enquiry for ordinary Superphosphate, with prices at £14 10s. to £14 15s. Concentrated is unaltered at £14 to £15. There is good enquiry for Basic Slag, which is difficult to obtain; value £3 5s. to £3 10s.

**WOODS** — Fustic £3 to £5 per ton; Honduras Log-wood £6 7s. 6d. to £7 5s. per ton; Jamaica £4 10s. to £5 5s. Honduras Cedar is quoted at 4d. to 7½d. per foot. Lignum Vitæ £6 to £16 per ton; Honduras Mahogany 5d. to 7d.; St. Domingo Satinwood 9d. to 1s. 6d. per foot.

**TIMBER** — British Guiana Greenheart £11 to £13 per load of 50 cubic feet.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL 15, SEETHING LANE

LONDON, E.C. 1.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

October 4th, 1915.

### THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

SINCE we last went to press the West Indian Contingent Committee has issued an appeal for funds. Their letter, which is published in another column, is meeting with a generous response, and upwards of a thousand pounds have already been subscribed. The first list of subscribers is published in another column, and it is hoped that before the fund is closed the names of most if not all the members of the Committee and West Indian Club will appear upon it. It is impossible at this juncture to state how much will be needed; but it may be asserted with confidence that good use will be made of every penny that is subscribed. As the signatories of the appeal point out, the Contingents from every other part of the Empire are already provided for in the matter of the provision of comforts and assistance when the men are on duty or on leave and when they are convalescent after leaving hospital, and it would be little short of a disgrace if our patriotic fellow subjects from the West Indies were not equally well provided for. In the circumstances we trust that the appeal will be liberally responded to, and that every reader of the CIRCULAR will help to make it a complete success.

### THE BUDGET.

MR. MCKENNA'S first Budget has been acclaimed with a chorus of praise. Though it imposes upon them new taxation to the extent of nearly £100,000,000 a year, the Public have accepted it without a murmur. If reports are to be believed, the Germans are deferring preparations for meeting their war liabilities until peace is restored, in the vain hope that

indemnities may relieve the situation, and to the recognition of the fact that the present policy of the British Government is far the sounder one the complacency and enthusiasm of the Public may be attributed. It says much for the popularity of the new Budget that the only item which has been the subject of any serious protests in letters to the Press has been the abolition of half-penny postage. While there has been no controversy outside Parliament, at St. Stephen's it is different, and the distant rumblings of those ardent doctrinaires MR. THOMAS LOUGH and SIR ALFRED MOND would appear to presage a revival of fiscal arguments, of which we hoped that we had heard the last. MR. MCKENNA'S proposals are admittedly novel. At the outset he pointed out that they would satisfy neither the strict Free Trader nor the scientific Tariff Reformer. For the first time since the forties, a tariff is imposed on various imported articles without a corresponding excise duty. But the intention has not been to encourage the home manufacturer, who, in any case, would hardly be able to compete, as he is so busy making munitions, but to prevent money going abroad in the purchase of luxuries. Sugar has again been singled out for increased taxation, the maximum duty being raised from 1s. 10d. to 9s. 4d. per cwt. The Public will not, however, feel the whole of this increase, for the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply will reduce its price for raw sugar to the manufacturer and retailer, so that to the actual consumer sugar will only cost ½d. per lb. more, instead of ¾d., which would be the full amount of the extra duty. The Commission have been able to do this owing, as MR. MCKENNA said, to their having purchased sugar at such favourable prices. If a reduction of ¾d. per lb. can be made now, one is inclined to suspect that the consumer hitherto has been paying more for his sugar than he need have done. But we may let that pass. On the reduction of the price of sugar sold by the Royal Commission there must follow a reduction in the price of grocery sugar imported under license, but this cannot be a subject for complaint except on the grounds that no preference is being given to British Colonial sugar; for both classes will be on an equality in the home market. For the first time an excise duty is imposed on home grown sugar, but the position of the beet growers in this country will be somewhat better than it was before as their protection, which amounts to £2 6s. 8d. per ton as compared with £1 16s. 8d. hitherto, is now officially recognised. We can see in the imposition of this excise duty a recognition that the Brussels Convention, which for reasons

already stated we hoped had become a dead letter, is still in existence. But this differentiation will lead to the hope that when the war is over there may be a differentiation in favour of British Colonial sugar for which we shall not cease to press. We believe that no manufacturer or consumer would object, on the assumption that some of the preference would fall into their pockets and that the British sugar industry would be materially extended; indeed, he would surely welcome a reduction which would to any extent be in his favour. The other commodities in which the West Indies are interested that are affected by the Budget are cacao and coffee. On each the old duties are increased by 50 per cent.; but as both cocoa and coffee will be far cheaper than tea which has been still more heavily taxed than heretofore, the effect on consumption will not be great. There is no further increase in the duties on spirits, a matter for satisfaction to producers of rum, and the excess profits tax will not, of course, affect merchants or agriculturists in the West Indies. It will, however, press very heavily on firms in this country owning sugar and cacao estates abroad. But in view of the uncertainties of tropical agriculture it can hardly be believed that they will be treated on the same footing as manufacturers of munitions, and it is to be hoped that the new tribunal which is to be set up will take a wide view of the position, and that ample allowance will be made to enable proprietors to strengthen their position by improvements, etc.

#### THE MAIL SERVICE.

**N**EGOTIATIONS for a monthly West Indian Mail service are still continuing; but, as far as we can learn, the prospects of their reaching a settlement are not very bright. The Postmaster-General has, however, arranged with the Royal Mail Company for the *Magdalena* to sail for the West Indies on October 20th. It must be admitted that the absence of regular mail communication since the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company terminated their contract has caused far less inconvenience than was anticipated. Conditions have altered in several respects since 1907-11 when the absence of a mail contract caused such an outcry throughout the West Indies and evidence of this is furnished by the complacency—in some parts of the West Indies even satisfaction—with which recent developments have been received. The Panama Canal which now places the British West Indies on the ocean highway was not then a *fait accompli*, and the Colonies were not enjoying the advantages of cheap telegraphic communication, the message rate between British Guiana being 7/0½ per word as compared with 1/1½, the present lowest rate. In the circumstances the West Indies would, but for the conditions arising out of the War, be in a far better position to bargain than they have been for many years past. It has been made perfectly clear that the people of Trinidad and Barbados would prefer to dispense with the contract service

altogether in view of the frequent opportunities which they enjoy of sending mails via New York, and unless their temper undergoes a very decided modification it seems very improbable that, after the lesson of the last few months, they will show the same willingness in granting subsidies as they did before. Every day it is becoming more and more apparent that it is in the facilities which it affords for passengers that the value of the contract service chiefly lay, and we are not without hope that if the Panama Canal proves the success we anticipate it may be possible to induce one or more of the steamship lines which will make use of it to put in a call at one of the West Indian islands to drop and pick up mails and passengers for a far smaller charge than that which the colonies are now being asked to pay. For the present, mails are being sent by French mail from Bordeaux and via the United States, by which route they are frequently delivered more speedily than by the old contract service, and for the present, at any rate, we must be content to answer correspondence as soon as possible and to trust to the Postmaster-General to despatch it by the quickest route.

### OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

#### West Indian Chocolate.

An illustration of one of the boxes of chocolate presented by Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and St. Lucia to our soldiers and sailors is given on the opposite page. It will be recalled that the above-named colonies voted £40,000, £6,000 and £2,000 respectively for the purchase of cacao for this purpose, and that sufficient was sold to defray the cost of manufacture into chocolate and of putting it up into specially designed tins. The tin boxes are black picked out with gold, and the inscription and badges of the colonies which are on them are also gold.

Each box contains 12 slabs of chocolate, and the only matter for regret is that they bear the manufacturer's name, which seems quite unpardonable, having regard to the fact that the chocolate was made to order. But this defect will not have made the gift less acceptable to our gallant soldiers and sailors, by whom, as by their families after them, they will no doubt be as much treasured as the Queen's chocolate boxes distributed during the South African War. The chocolate is quite palatable though slightly bitter.

#### The Canadian National Exhibition.

That Mr. C. S. Pickford is one of those exceptional people who can make bricks without straw is shown by the photograph of the British West Indian Court at the National Exhibition held recently at Toronto. Only two colonies were represented, Jamaica and the Bahamas, and though no Government aid was forthcoming in the case of Jamaica, a very attractive exhibit was provided by Messrs. Cunningham and Co., Messrs. F. L. Myers and Sons, and Messrs. Kerr and Co. The Court was admirably arranged and organised by Mr. Pickford.



A WEST INDIAN GIFT TO OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.



THE WEST INDIAN COURT AT THE TORONTO EXHIBITION.

## THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

### The Committee's Appeal for Funds.

The third meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the Colonial Office on Thursday, September 23rd. Sir Everard im Thurn presided, and the members also present were: Sir Edward Ward, Sir James Hayes Sadler, Sir Robert Llewelyn, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. G. Moody Stuart and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary. Sir William Grey Wilson and Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, of the Colonial Office also attended by invitation.

The Earl of Harewood, Lord Glenconner, Sir Francis Fleming and Sir William Grey Wilson were appointed members of the Committee which it was decided to form into an Executive.

The following draft appeal for funds was approved and subsequently published in the Press:

DEAR SIR,

The Army Council having accepted the offer of the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras, to supply a Contingent for service with the Imperial Forces, the undermentioned Colonies are sending detachments, the total strength of which will be about 2,000 men: Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica and Turks Islands, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands and Trinidad and Tobago.

At the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies a Committee has been formed to provide for the welfare and comfort of these men as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently and of others who may come over from the West Indies to enlist in the new armies. The Governor of Bermuda, which has a detachment at the front, has accepted the offer of the Committee to help the men from that Colony also.

We believe that the spirit which has made our fellow subjects overseas claim to show their devotion to their King and Country and to play their part in upholding the unity and honour of the Empire will meet with general admiration. The West Indian Contingent will be drawn chiefly from classes untravelled and unfamiliar with the life of European communities. It is hoped, therefore, that they may receive a particularly hospitable welcome. They will in many cases require assistance and advice while in training or on furlough or when wounded and in hospital and it will be necessary to make special provision for their accommodation during convalescence after discharge from hospital.

The Contingents from other parts of the Empire are already provided for in these respects, and arrangements should certainly be made for our soldiers from the British West Indies also. To enable the Committee efficiently to carry out its purpose it will be necessary to secure at once a considerable sum of

money which it is hoped may be speedily forthcoming. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Treasurers of the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., cheques being crossed "The Union of London and Smiths' Bank."

We are, yours faithfully,

EVERARD IM THURN, *Chairman.*

HAREWOOD.	GLENCONNER.
E. W. D. WARD.	C. P. LUCAS.
J. HAYES SADLER.	W. GREY WILSON.
FRANCIS FLEMING.	OWEN PHILLIPS.
SYDNEY OLIVIER.	R. RUTHERFORD.
J. RIPPON.	

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Hon. Sec.*

Sir Edward Ward reported that he had visited Seaford Camp and that he had found the men from British Guiana, who were quartered there, happy and contented. He made various suggestions for providing for their comfort which were referred to the General Purposes Committee.

Mr. Bernard Bonyun was appointed Assistant Hon. Secretary to the Committee. Mr. Bonyun who comes of a Barbados family, and was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, is Supervisor of Customs in Nigeria, but, being on leave in England, he kindly offered to the Committee, with the approval of the Colonial Office, his services, which were gratefully accepted.

### The Contingent Fund.

The appeal for funds, the text of which is given above, has been well responded to. It is hoped that every reader of the CIRCULAR will contribute to it and will induce others to do the same. Below is the first list of contributions:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. ... ..	105	0	0
The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. ... ..	105	0	0
The Colonial Bank ... ..	100	0	0
The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. )	100	0	0
The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd. ... )			
The Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd. ... ..	52	10	0
Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co. ... ..	52	10	0
Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd. ... ..	52	10	0
Lord Glenconner ... ..	50	0	0
Mrs. Godfrey Wedgwood ... ..	35	0	0
Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co. ... ..	26	5	0
P. J. Dean, Esq. ... ..	25	0	0
Messrs. Frame & Co. ... ..	25	0	0
Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. ... ..	25	0	0
The North Borneo Chamber of Commerce (through London Chamber of Commerce)	25	0	0
Captain Wm. Godsal ... ..	20	0	0
Messrs. Claud Neilson & Sons ... ..	10	10	0
C. W. Stevens, Esq. ... ..	10	10	0
Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller ... ..	10	10	0
R. Rutherford, Esq. ... ..	10	10	0
Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd. ... ..	10	10	0
Messrs. Previte & Co. ... ..	10	10	0
Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B. ... ..	10	0	0
W. H. Trollope, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Mrs. A. Maude Bateman ... ..	10	0	0
Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., Ltd. ... ..	10	0	0
Mrs. Ethel M. Beckett ... ..	10	0	0
F. Galloway, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G. ... ..	7	7	0
Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G. ... ..	5	5	0
Messrs. Paines & Reid ... ..	5	5	0
Frederick White, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Delbanco & Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5	0
Allan E. Messer, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0
Messrs. Henry Langridge & Co. ... ..	5	5	0
Messrs. Shorter & Co. (Sydney Shorter)	5	5	0
W. P. B. Shephard, Esq., M.A., and J. Poyer			
Poyer, Esq., Trustees of Henley & Hus-			
bands Estates, Barbados ... ..	5	5	0
The Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's			
Guano Works) ... ..	5	5	0
Messrs. Hawkins & Tipson ... ..	5	5	0
H. de Courcy Hamilton, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Major H. F. Previte ... ..	5	0	0
Sir Chas. Walpole, J.P., C.B., F.R.G.S. ...	5	0	0
F. Beckles Gall, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Allan Campbell, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Eleanor M. Fenwick ... ..	5	0	0
Leonard P. Hudson, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Messrs. Llewellyns & James, Ltd. ... ..	5	0	0
Patrick Gillespie, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
The Plaisance Estate of Grenada (per			
Hamilton Ross, Esq.) ... ..	5	0	0
Col. E. D. Malcolm of Poltalloch, C.B. ...	5	0	0
Miss Mary Dundy ... ..	5	0	0
E. L. Atkinson, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
V. L. Oliver, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. M. E. Edwards Moss ... ..	5	0	0
Sholto Hare, Esq. ... ..	3	3	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Alleyne ... ..	3	3	0
"Clean Bowled" ... ..	3	3	0
Mrs. Reginald Hayes Sadler ... ..	3	0	0
J. Cameron Head, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
R. H. McCarthy, Esq., C.M.G. ... ..	2	2	0
H. Percy Harris, Esq., M.P. ... ..	2	2	0
Alfred Hirsch, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
H. D. Swan, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
Edward C. Hamley, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
C. H. Ward, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
D. Gibson, Esq. ... ..	2	0	0
Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G. ... ..	2	0	0
John McConnell, Esq. ... ..	2	0	0
Miss Nightingale ... ..	2	0	0
D. K. Nightingale, Esq. ... ..	1	10	0
E. R. Darnley, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Wm. Fawcett, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D. ... ..	1	1	0
Wm. Alfred Jones, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Capt. R. B. Feilden ... ..	1	1	0
Frederick Driver, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Philip Somerville, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
P. L. Giuseppe, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S. ...	1	1	0
Luke M. Hill, Esq., A.M.I.C.E. ... ..	1	1	0
Sir Jas. H. Harrison, Kt., C.V.O. ... ..	1	1	0
Hon. Wm. H. Lascelles ... ..	1	1	0
Sir Charles P. Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. ...	1	1	0
Alex. G. Low, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Col. Samuel Sandbach ... ..	1	1	0
Major Louis F. Knollys, C.M.G. ... ..	1	1	0
Chas. H. Hewett ... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. R. Rutherford ... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Arthur ... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. Kathrina C. Hackney ... ..	1	1	0
A. T. Hammond, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Wm. C. Teacher, Esq. ... ..	1	0	0
Prof. Robert Wallace ... ..	1	0	0
John W. Russell, Esq. ... ..	1	0	0
Col. the Hon. R. S. Cotton ... ..	1	0	0
T. W. O'Neal, Esq. ... ..	1	0	0
Percy A. Abrahams, Esq. ... ..	10	6	
Ronald Bailey, Esq. ... ..	10	0	
Miss M. A. Bratt ... ..	10	0	
Miss M. Ithell ... ..	7	6	
F. S. Bolam, Esq. ... ..	5	0	

#### Colonel A. E. Barchard to Command.

It is satisfactory to know that it has now been definitely decided that the men from the West Indies shall maintain their identity. They will

form two battalions, the first of which will be commanded by Colonel A. E. Barchard, which will be known as the West Indian Contingent. Their uniforms will resemble those of an infantry regiment of the line, and the shoulder straps will bear the distinctive letters BWL. Possibly a distinctive badge will eventually be adopted; meanwhile, however, the caps will bear the Royal cypher and Crown.

Colonel Barchard, the Commanding Officer, is in his forty-eighth year, having been born on May 25, 1868. He joined the 2nd West India Regiment as second Lieutenant in 1889, and was promoted to be Captain in 1896. He was gazetted Major in 1900 and Lieut.-Colonel eleven years later. He has been stationed in Jamaica several times, and from 1893 to 1895, and again from 1900 to 1911 was Garrison Adjutant there.

#### TRINIDAD MERCHANTS' CONTINGENT.

In addition to the West Indian Contingent a detachment of men will shortly arrive from Trinidad to join the new armies. \* They have been selected by, and are coming over at the expense of, a committee of professional and business men, comprising the Mayor of Port of Spain, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Hon. Adam Smith, Hon. Hugh McLelland, Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., Major A. S. Bowen, Mr. J. Howard Smith, Mr. John Phillips, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. John Moodie, Mr. Edgar Tripp, with Mr. G. F. Huggins as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Huggins recently arrived in this country to make the necessary arrangements for the reception of the men, some of whom will, it is hoped, be found suitable to receive Commissions.

Writing from Port of Spain on August 27th, our Hon. Correspondent, Mr. Edgar Tripp, said that sufficient funds had been subscribed to justify sending over 150 men.

The initiator of the movement, Mr. G. F. Huggins, and Mrs. Huggins were at home on August 26th in the beautiful grounds of their new house at Belmont to meet the fine body of youngsters who have volunteered. A heavy of fair ladies adorned with the Allies' colours attended at many small tables, and two bands played patriotic airs alternately. Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner delivered a stirring address, bountiful hospitality was extended to all, and the proceedings from beginning to end were enthusiastic. Other speakers included Mr. G. F. Huggins and the Rev. G. F. Bruce, who referred to the men of Trinidad who had already crossed the seas on their own account to serve their King and country, among whom were his two sons, who had joined the 2nd Life Guards and were in the trenches. When these brave boys have gone there will be few families in Trinidad that will not have contributed of their best in the cause of King and country. The men will be in the charge of Major Bowen, who, owing to age limit, will return here, but Lieut. Tertius Wilson and many of his men of the Mounted Infantry will accompany them to the front. Mr. Huggins, by his patriotic action in this matter, has added to the esteem in which he has long been generally held.

A LIST of publications to be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms will be forwarded post free upon request.



## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

*Passed by the Press Censor for publication.*

The War Budget has been received with almost unanimous approval. Its figures are staggering, and the burden of taxation it inflicts upon the people unprecedented. Moreover it scraps fiscal theories hitherto considered sacred. But philo-sophic calm prevails, and in quarters where it was least expected. The truth is both the House and the country know that this war must be carried through to a finish, and are too practical to stick at the cost.

The success of the American loan is another matter for congratulation. At present, owing to our enormous imports from the United States, the trade balance is so greatly in her favour that the dollar is at a premium. Or, to put it another way, the American exchange on London has fallen to a point which makes it cheaper to borrow in the United States even on somewhat onerous terms, than to incur the heavy loss involved in exchange remittances.

Sir Edward Grey has made an excellent effect in the Balkan States by his warning against aggression and offer of help should they intervene on the side of the Allies. Apparently Bulgaria is about to follow the example of the Ottoman Empire in allowing herself to become the catspaw of Germany. Already German and Austrian officers are playing the same part in Sofia as they played in Constantinople on the eve of Turkey's declaration of war. A decision will have been arrived at before the CIRCULAR is in our readers' hands, for Russia has presented an ultimatum to Bulgaria calling for a reply within twenty-four hours.

### On the Western Front.

For some time past artillery attacks have been incessant along the entire front, increasing in intensity as the Allied command of munitions has improved. They were directed at interrupting the methodical action of the enemy's supply system, ammunition depots having been destroyed, convoys shelled, and certain sectors rendered untenable. This activity had another end in view, to cover the preliminaries of the surprise attack by which the Allies have struck a blow at the enemy such as he has not received since the battle of the Marne. That it was unexpected, in spite of a three days' bombardment without intermission, is evident from the fact that the first-line trenches of the Germans were thinly held, and that their reserves arrived too late to be of much service. So many false or subsidiary attacks were delivered at so many points that the real attacks found the enemy unprepared. The result is that the French from a position they won near Perthes last March have continued the line westward towards the Aisne as far as Prosnac, about midway between Rheims and Suippes, the advance covering a frontage of about sixteen miles. They are now

threatening the railway which feeds the German armies in Champagne.

At the same time a combined Franco-British offensive has drawn nearer Lens, the important mining centre, which bars the way to Lille. Here the fighting has been incessant and stubborn since December when Vermelles was captured by the French. From this strategic point the British have now continued the line to Loos, which, together with Hill 70, they have gained. This brings them to within two miles of Lens, with its key in their possession. On the south the French have driven the Germans from Souchez and their last hold on the Labyrinth, the scene of some of the fiercest hand-to-hand contests in the War. As that elaborate system of fortifications was designed to defend the heights of Vimy, its breakdown has since enabled the French to seize the crest, a success which is sure to have far-reaching consequences, the ridge dominating the whole country to the east. The fall of Lens cannot be long postponed, since the Allies have surmounted the greatest obstacles to its capture.

As the Allies have taken over 20,000 prisoners, much war material, and 147 guns the attacks of last week must have come as a complete surprise to the enemy, and, consequently, it is believed that the losses on our side will not prove to be severe in proportion to the success gained. Another matter for congratulation is the way in which the "New Army" is proving itself worthy to carry on the traditions of the Army, which is now enshrined in history. Many of its battalions experienced heavy fighting for the first time in the capture of a position as strong as many stormed by the veterans of a year ago, and made the same sacrifices without flinching. Here, as on every other front, the moral ascendancy of the Allied forces establishes itself the moment the Germans lose the support of their mechanical superiority. This was marked even in South-West Africa. Apparently what the massed formation was to the German soldier in the fighting of another time, the contrivances of invention are to the German soldier to-day. His confidence comes from without rather than from within. Man to man he has shown his inferiority to British, French, and Russians.

### On the Eastern Front.

The Russians have not only escaped from the enemy's enveloping movement in the Vilna section, but in their orderly retreat destroyed all the railways and bridges behind them. They have, also, evaded the concentric advance on Minsk, and are either holding their ground or regaining points which have been evacuated, capturing hundreds of prisoners and a quantity of *materiel*. Near Dvinsk, for the possession of which the Germans seem ready to make any sacrifices, they are making a desperate attempt to envelop the bridge-head on the south-east. Though their artillery seems to have been further reinforced, their attacks have been uniformly repulsed, inflicting enormous losses on them.

So far is Mackensen from making his way through the marshes, that when last heard of he was driven to retire behind the Oginsky Canal. His failure for a time reacted on the Austrians in the south, who were thrown back across the Strypa losing Lutsk again. But they have since been reinforced. In any case it is likely that they may decide to fall back on prepared positions with some part of the Carpathians covering their flank, and dig themselves in for the winter. Should this be the German design the line chosen will be as easterly as possible so as to include the Galician oilfields, which will not be surrendered without a desperate struggle, for petrol is almost as necessary to the conduct of war as cotton.

### The Balkans.

As long as Germany is able by the most consummate skill and daring to prevent the Russian counter-strokes from achieving a decisive success in the east, the vacillating policy in the Balkan States is likely to continue. Bulgaria has mobilised her army and Greece has followed suit. That the Serbians would resist any violation of their territory is certain, but the intentions of Bulgaria are more doubtful. For the idea of an Austro-German march to Constantinople to help the Turks is more than bluff, professional optimists notwithstanding. Already long-range guns threaten Belgrade, enemy air-craft are flying down the Danube, and enemy troops are massed from the Iron Gate to Orsova, and British sailors and guns are helping in the defence of the Serbian capital.

### Germany and the United States.

There is something grimly ironic in the German-American situation. Owing to the successful activity of the British Navy the enemy's submarine warfare against the commerce of this country resulted in such heavy losses that Germany is offering "concessions" to the United States in the hope of enlisting her aid to deprive the weapon, that ensures the safety of her mercantile marine, of its edge. German naval officers, the Government at Washington is told, have received orders to let pass American vessels carrying conditional contraband. Apart from the fact that the opportunities for continuing the policy of frightfulness are now extremely limited, the concessions are only in form. For until an article of conditional contraband is put on the list of absolute contraband, which can be done at any time, it is not liable to capture. Therefore, Germany promises no more than that she will cease to violate the law of nations on this point, knowing that she can no longer do it.

The Germans are endeavouring to persuade the American Government that the *Hesperian* was sunk by a mine, as, according to them, no German submarine was near her when she sank. They should try again.

### The War at Sea.

During the past ten days British warships have been engaged in bombarding the coast of Belgium, which is in the occupation of the enemy. They have co-operated with the Allied land forces, the Belgian Army in particular, directing its artillery on the same point, with Zeebrugge as centre. This sector is reported as isolated, and it is possible that a landing by the British may be effected.

The Grand Fleet maintains its guard in the North Sea, keeping in harbour the German Navy, which is inferior only to our own, and stronger than the combined fleets of France, Russia and Italy. The flotillas of small craft continue to patrol home waters so that the inflow of food and raw materials to these islands, and the outflow of men, war material and supplies to the Continent are never interrupted by a single day. So successful have they been in submarine hunting, too, that the Germans are believed to have lost more than twice as many submarines as they possessed at the beginning of the war. In the Mediterranean the British Fleet is co-operating with the Allied fleets in securing the safe passage of fresh drafts and reinforcements to the various beaches in the Gallipoli Peninsula, and all the stores of ammunition, equipment, and food required by the troops fighting there.

### In the Air.

The British Naval Air Service is being reorganised under Rear-Admiral C. L. Vaughan Lee. The step is significant, not only as marking the importance of the new branch of the Navy, but as the proper action of the Admiralty since it was admitted by Mr. Balfour that the defence of London, so far as aircraft are concerned, had been imperfectly developed. The system of artillery defence, which was devised to deal with air raids, has not, in practice, been found adequate.

The French Air Service, which bombarded Karlsruhe as a reply to German aerial attacks on Paris, has bombarded Stuttgart, the capital of Württemberg, as a reply to aerial attacks on this country. The royal palace and railway station were injured. That reprisals are the best method of checking the enemy's attacks on open towns is clear from his fury at Allied temerity in showing him that two can play at the game which he started.

(To be continued).

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IN 1914 the United States supplied 6,332,854 gallons of illuminating Oil to the West Indies (Cuba excepted) and Bermuda.

AN excise duty has for the first time been imposed on home-grown chicory. It only corresponds, however, with the 50 per cent. increase in the Customs duty. Chicory is, therefore, still protected to the extent of 13s. 3d. per cwt, the Customs duty being now 19s. 10d. and the excise duty 6s. 7d.

### CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

The Sugar Crop and Cane Farming Returns compiled by Mr. Edgar Tripp for the Agricultural Society of Trinidad, for the season 1915, is printed below. In it there will be found some very noticeable and satisfactory features so far as the current year's operations are concerned. The total output amounts to 58,882 tons, being the largest since 1906. The largest return ever made by a single factory in the colony is recorded by the St. Madeleine Estates Ltd., viz.: 17,067 tons. The sum paid to farmers for canes at the rate of 11s. per ton, against 10s. per ton last year, comes to \$869,790, being

\$383,160 more than ever aggregated before. Canes purchased for this sum weighed 325,071 tons against 201,799 tons in 1914. The number of farmers supplying canes increased from 12,703 to 16,280, while the quantity of Estates' canes reaped was fully up to the average.

A disappointing condition was the unusual poorness of the juice experienced throughout the sugar districts. An average of 13.7 tons of canes was ground for each ton of sugar as compared with about 11 tons formerly. Otherwise the crop would have been a record. Prices, however, have been, and are satisfactory, and on the whole, says Mr. Tripp, our long-suffering sugar planters will have little to complain of in the result of the campaign just concluded.

ESTATE.	Total Sugar Made. Tons.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes.	Tons of Estate Canes ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased	Amount paid for Canes. \$	No. of Farmers.	
						East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle ...	4,260	3,704	46,202	7,111	18,789	300	176
Bronte ...	3,570	1,988	24,735	21,639	57,126	806	344
Caroni ...	5,183	*2,493	35,027	37,781	103,657	687	495
Craignish ...	732	268	*4,020	6,960	18,374	232	212
Esperanza ...	2,243	1,194	15,073	16,358	43,135	384	186
Forres Park ...	1,450	648	8,431	12,285	32,434	450	166
Hindustan ...	700	170	2,550	8,436	22,273	105	153
La Florissant††	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mon Desir ...	154	129	2,055	434	808	10	15
Reform ...	850	*255	4,331	10,123	26,708	*500	*400
Tacarigua Factory ...	3,254	1,197	17,455	128,617	84,474	651	989
Tennants' Mission Group	\$3,573	880	10,663	33,096	87,371	*809	*854
.. Southern Group	\$4,627	3,620	41,908	11,589	30,594	*306	*240
Usine St Madeleine ...	17,067	11,941	136,730	59,340	155,874	3,019	1,189
Waterloo ...	7,415	4,200	53,041	43,096	113,640	305	1,296
Woodford Lodge ...	3,644	1,689	24,041	28,236	74,531	638	363
	58,822	34,376	426,262	325,071	869,790	9,202	7,078
Return for 1914 ...	55,488	35,690	407,797	201,799	446,630	7,450	5,253
.. 1913 ...	42,331	31,095	346,912	136,724	330,364	6,942	5,513
.. 1912 ...	40,936	27,856	315,762	151,697	358,428	6,983	6,042
.. 1911 ...	46,718	32,539	366,599	165,720	357,560	6,621	6,391
.. 1910 ...	51,950	37,446	454,539	179,447	412,658	6,443	5,820
.. 1909 ...	52,972	39,553	451,801	154,663	337,817	6,077	5,324
.. 1908 ...	49,943	36,310	380,334	139,423	303,631	5,922	5,619
.. 1907 ...	50,564	35,597	373,577	169,709	340,527	6,557	5,777
.. 1906 ...	62,975	39,735	397,912	237,844	469,122	6,127	5,446
.. 1905 ...	38,240	—	244,418	144,868	482,053	5,424	5,462
.. 1904 ...	50,744	1,663	385,015	171,947	360,046	4,646	4,685
.. 1903 ...	—	1,783	337,622	166,590	348,445	4,443	4,440
.. 1902 ...	—	4,379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4,506	4,850
.. 1901 ...	—	3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
.. 1900 ...	—	1,286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
.. 1899 ...	—	1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
.. 1898 ...	—	—	—	105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

\* Estimated. † Includes 2,946 tons La Florissant canes. †† Canes ground at Tacarigua Factory. § Estimated, Second Sugars not yet all manufactured.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The copy of the West India Committee Map of the West Indies which now hangs in the recreation hut of the West Indian Contingent at Seaford Camp has attracted much attention. Directly it was hung up the men crowded round it eager to show their fellow soldiers where they came from. A prospectus, giving full particulars of the map, which should be in every business office in the West Indies, can

be had post free on application to the Secretary, the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The special price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carried paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

## COTTON CULTIVATION.

### Co-operation between Growers and Spinners urged.

At the recent meetings of the British Association Mr. W. Lawrence Balls, for some years botanist to the Agricultural Department in Egypt, read a paper on the application of science to the cotton industry. He emphasized the interdependence of cotton growing, spinning, and manufacturing, the great need for co-operation between spinners and growers, and the provision of a language common to both by the scientist. To-day, he said, there was a big gap fixed between the grower and the spinner. The grower had little idea as to why he could sell some cotton at better prices than he could obtain for other kinds, and the spinner could not explain to anyone but a spinner why he paid more for some kinds than for others. In the past judgment of quality had been founded upon inspection, but the only real test was the cumbersome one of actual spinning. On the other hand, the scientific study of cotton-growing was wasted labour until enough was known about cotton spinning to understand exactly what was being worked for. It had therefore been suggested that the Manchester University should form a cotton department for the purpose of linking together the scientist and growers and spinners.

Cotton-growing could become an accurate science once it was given an objective by the spinners. For generations past there had been just as much waste as usual in the cotton used by Lancashire, and just as much impurity leading to dirty yarn. There had been no general knowledge of how to alter cotton in any desired direction, and no common agreement as to the connection between length, productivity, earliness, fineness, and so forth. The distinctions between the kind of seed and the environment in which it was grown had been confused. In spinning mills there had seemed to be no room for further advances in technique, in principle as opposed to detail. We had only to look at a piece of fine cambric or muslin with a small hand lens to realise that this delicate fabric was nothing to be proud of, and was, in fact, a mass of defects with only a fraction of the strength and durability which it might possess if properly made. There was a perfect mine of information waiting to be worked by anyone who would trouble to apply a little thoroughgoing statistical enquiry to such simple points as hair strength and hair length. He himself could see the possibility of two new machines, each marking as big an advance as the comber, and not restricted, like the comber, to the fine spinning trade.

There was a primary need that the spinner should be able to express the properties of his cotton in scientific terms—practically in numerical form—which the grower should understand; and there was ample room for a body which would

take upon itself the function of connecting the grower with the spinner whilst being devoted itself primarily to scientific research. Besides providing a common language for the industry this body could collate the scattered literature and "illiterature" of cotton, advise and co-ordinate the vague experimental work done disconnectedly in various parts of the world, be a sort of court of appeal as to the significance of results obtained, and keep a register of all the pure kinds of cotton grown, with statistical records of their performance under various conditions in field and mill. He suggested that the University could better fulfil such functions than either a Government department or a business concern.

In the discussion which followed Sir Daniel Morris said there should be no difficulty in getting growers and spinners to join hands in such a work; Mr. McConnel gave illustrations from his own experiences of how excellent strains of cotton were being lost for want of such work; and the Vice-Chancellor said he had no doubt Manchester University would do everything it could to help forward such a movement if the growers and others in the industry would find the necessary finances. The amount necessary, he added, would be quite negligible as compared with the enormous sums invested in the growing and spinning of cotton, and should be easily raised.

## THE NEW SUGAR DUTIES.

Below is the scale of the new sugar duties which came into force on September 22nd.

	Degrees	Customs	Eraise.	Old Customs Duty
Polarization 98° and over	9/4	7/-	1/10	
" " " " " " " "	8/7	6/5.2	1/8.2	
" " " " " " " "	8/4.3	6/3.2	1/7.7	
" " " " " " " "	8/1.6	6/1.2	1/7.1	
" " " " " " " "	7/10.9	5/11.2	1/6.6	
" " " " " " " "	7/8.2	5/9.4	1/6.1	
" " " " " " " "	7/5.6	5/7.2	1/5.6	
" " " " " " " "	7/2.9	5/5.1	1/5	
" " " " " " " "	7/0.2	5/3.1	1/4.5	
" " " " " " " "	6/9.5	5/1.1	1/4	
" " " " " " " "	6/6.8	4/11.1	1/3.4	
" " " " " " " "	6/4.6	4/9.4	1/3	
" " " " " " " "	6/2.3	4/7.7	1/2.6	
" " " " " " " "	6/0.3	4/6.2	1/2.2	
" " " " " " " "	5/10.3	4/4.7	1/1.8	
" " " " " " " "	5/8.3	4/3.2	1/1.4	
" " " " " " " "	5/6.3	4/1.7	1/1	
" " " " " " " "	5/4.5	4/0.3	1/0.6	
" " " " " " " "	5/2.7	3/11	1/0.3	
" " " " " " " "	5/0.9	3/9.6	11.9	
" " " " " " " "	4/11.1	3/8.3	11.8	
" " " " " " " "	4/9.3	3/7	11.2	
" " " " " " " "	4/7.5	3/5.6	10.9	
" " " " " " " "	4/6	3/4	10d.	
	and under			
Molasses ... .. over 70°	5/11	4/5	1/2	10d.
" " " " " " " " 50°/70°	4/3	3/2	—	5d.
" " " " " " " " below 50°	2/1	1/7	—	1/2
Glucose ... .. Solid	5/11	—	—	10d.
" " " " " " " " Liquid	4/3	—	—	—
Molasses for Cattle-feeding or Distilling	—	—	Free.	—

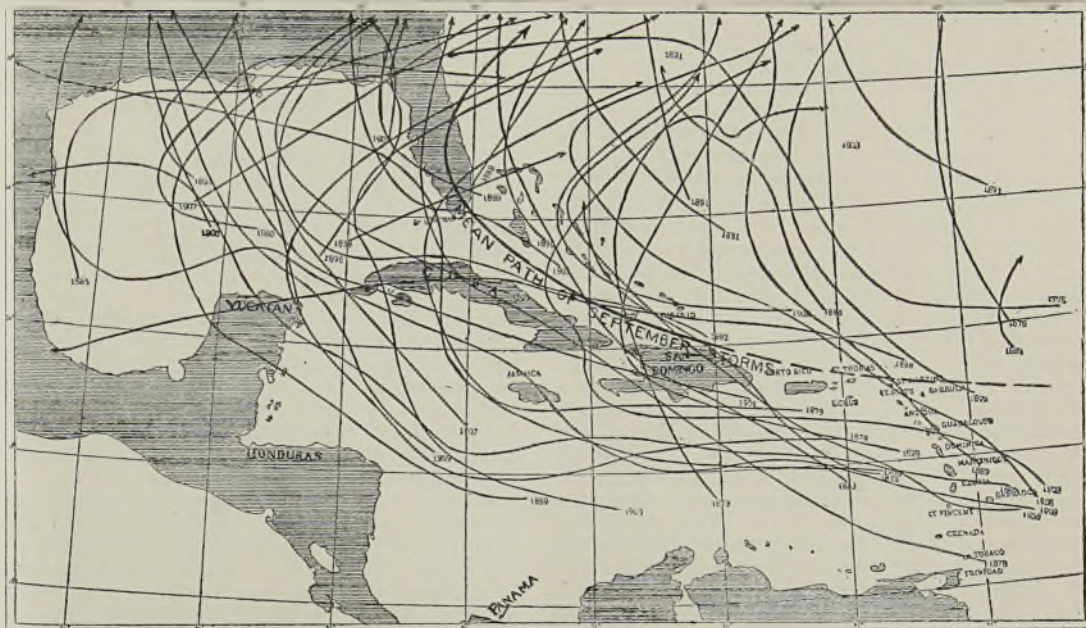
**WEST INDIAN HURRICANES.**

**An American Professor's Report.**

Dr. Oliver L. Fassig, Professor of Meteorology to the United States Weather Bureau, spent the last three years in the hurricane zone making observations and collecting data with regard to all the hurricanes which have taken place in the past 35 years.

In his report, which has recently been issued by the Bureau, he states that the hurricane is the same type of storm as the "typhoon" and the "cyclone." The word "cyclone" has been adopted as the technical term covering all so-called "revolving" storms. In all of these the fundamental action is the blowing of surface winds inward, more or less spirally, toward an area of minimum atmospheric pressure, then upward and outward at elevations

of the middle latitudes. The hurricane belt may be defined as extending from longitude 56° west to 90° west and from latitude 12° to 26° north; or, roughly, the area embracing the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the West India islands. The Atlantic end of the Panama Canal is 9° 25' north, and is below the belt. The more severe storms which are felt in Limon Bay, and the heavy seas sometimes rolling in, are the secondary, transmitted effects of violent disturbances several degrees to the northward. The hurricane season is from June to November. The normal track for an entire season, as determined from the paths of 135 storms occurring during the 35 years between 1876 and 1910, resembles a parabola in form. The first branch extends west by north, then north-westward and north, recurving over central Florida, the trend is N.E. over the Atlantic along the second branch of the parabola.



PATHS OF WEST INDIAN HURRICANES DURING SEPTEMBER FROM 1876 to 1911.

varying with the extent and intensity of the storm. The term "hurricane" is restricted to cyclones which have their origin and field of action within well defined limits embracing the West Indies and neighbouring waters of the north Atlantic. The "tornado" of the United States is a concentrated cyclone, in which, with a diameter of only a few hundred feet, the difference in atmospheric pressure at the outer edge and the centre may be as great as in a larger cyclonic storm covering hundreds of square miles. The tornado, the thunder-storm, the waterspout and the squall are usually secondary developments within portions of larger cyclonic storms.

The hurricanes originate almost entirely within a well defined area, and, after taking a west to north-west course, recurve and enter the eastward drift

Conditions favourable for the formation of hurricanes in the West Indies begin in the month of June, but do not become well developed until the month of August. From August to the close of October is the principal period for these storms. Of 134 hurricanes occurring during a period of 35 years, the distribution by months was as follows:—

	Number.	Per cent.
May	1	1
June	8	6
July	5	4
August	33	25
September	43	32
October	42	31
November	2	1
Total	134	100

It is seen that 88 per cent. occurred during the months of August, September, and October, leaving 12 per cent. for the remainder of the season.

Tropical storms move more slowly than storms of the middle and higher latitudes. This is a distinct advantage to those in the tropical storm area, as it enables warnings to be sent out. The average rate of travel of the hurricanes is about 12.5 miles per hour, compared with about 30 miles an hour for the cyclones of the temperate regions. In the tropics, the storm centre frequently remains nearly stationary for several days. The average duration of the storm is six days, though durations have varied from one to 19 days. The force of the wind or intensity of the storm will vary greatly, but at the centre of the disturbance the wind may blow as high as 72 miles per hour for a period of five minutes, or reach 120 miles an hour for one minute. The hurricanes are usually accompanied by a heavy fall of rain, and by lightning and thunder.

On account of the relatively slow progressive movement of the storm centre, the warnings which are sent out by the weather observatories, or the indications in the sky and wind, or by the barometer, of the approach of a storm afford fair warning, and there is little chance of an experienced mariner's being overtaken by a hurricane unawares.

The diurnal changes in pressure, wind direction, and cloud conditions in the tropics are so uniform that any departure from the normal is a sign for greater caution in noting the atmospheric conditions, especially during the period from July to October. In general, the atmospheric changes preceding a storm in the tropics do not differ greatly from those in more northern latitudes. The feeling of personal discomfort arising from increased humidity and diminished wind movement, the falling barometer, increasing cloudiness, formation of halos, and changes in wind and cloud direction and velocity are common to all parts of the world upon the approach of a general cyclonic disturbance. However, in the tropics the cirrus clouds, the white, fleecy cloud-forms which float at great elevations above the earth's surface, take on forms and motions over an atmospheric disturbance distinctly different from those observed at times of normal conditions of atmosphere.

If, in observations on succeeding days from a stationary observatory, the clouds indicate the centre to be on the same point of the horizon, the hurricane may be taken to be advancing toward the observatory. Squalls and showers are nearly always experienced within from 24 to 48 hours in advance of a hurricane. The squalls increase in frequency and violence with the development of the storm.

Thunderstorms cannot be considered as precursory signs, as the storm is well under way before thunder is heard. They are regarded by some observers as evidences of the breaking away of the storm.

Ocean swells, Dr. Fassig states, often announce the approach or the passing of a storm two or three days in advance of the centre. As a result of the diminished pressure and high winds near the centre

of the hurricane, as it passes over the sea, waves are propagated in all directions. The direction from which the resulting swell is experienced points out the bearing of the centre of the storm with a considerable degree of accuracy.

The signs noted above are generally observed at distances varying from 500 to 1,000 miles in advance of the centre of the hurricane. Within the radius of a day's movement of the storm, or about 300 to 400 miles from the centre, there are other and more reliable signs. The barometer begins to fall slowly but steadily, though the diurnal variation is still well marked; the wind begins to increase in force, obliterating normal diurnal changes, and backs to the east or north-east, if the observer is directly in the path of the storm, or changes from north-east to north and north-west if the path of the centre of the storm lies north of the observer. At the same time the direction and velocity of the lower clouds show unmistakable evidence of the presence of a storm and the bearing of its centre.

### THE PANAMA CANAL.

The Panama Canal has again been obstructed owing to a slide in the Culebra—or Gaillard (as it is now called)—Cut. Geologists always predicted that slides would continue to occur periodically for some little time until the Canal bed settled down and these are, therefore, causing no undue apprehension.

Apart from occasional interruptions of work through the above cause, all continues to go well, and the traffic through the Canal has exceeded all anticipations. The aggregate tonnage of cargo which has been carried through the waterway during the first 11½ months (to the end of July) amounted to no fewer than 5,675,261 tons, or an average of 493,935 tons per month.

With regard to the nationality of ships which have used the Canal since it was opened, it is noteworthy that British vessels outnumbered those of every other nationality, amounting as they did to 540, American ships numbered 526; Norwegian 48; Chilean 39; Danish 29; Swedish 26; Japanese 9; Dutch 8; Peruvian 7; Russian 6; Honduran 5; French 4, and Italian, Nicaraguan and Panamanian 4 each. *No German vessels have as yet made use of the Canal.*

From a table in the *Canal Record* it appears that in July shipments through the Canal from the Pacific to the Atlantic included 2,209 tons of cacao from Ecuador and Colombia, and 32,707 tons of sugar, of which 1,377 tons were from the west coast of South America, 134 tons for Europe and 1,243 tons for New York; and 41,330 tons were shipped from Honolulu for New York and Philadelphia.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

## OBITUARY.

MR. N. DARNELL DAVIS, C.M.G.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Nicholas Darnell Davis, C.M.G., which took place at Bath on September 27th.

Mr. Darnell Davis, who was born in Grenada on February 4th, 1846, was the son of the late William Darnell Davis, Chief Justice of that Colony. After serving for some years in the Governor's Private Secretary's office there, he became private secretary to Mr. Baynes, the Administrator. In 1866 he went to British Guiana and acted as clerk in various departments of the local Government from that year onwards. He was Secretary to the famous Des Vieux Commission of enquiry into the treatment of East Indian immigrants in 1870-71, and to the Commission to Mauritius on the same subject in 1872-73. From 1874 to 1876 he was Civil Commandant at Sherbro, Sierra Leone, returning to British Guiana in the latter year to assume the duties of Postmaster-General, which he carried out with ability until 1881, when he was appointed Comptroller of Customs. In 1898 he was promoted to be Auditor-General of British Guiana, a position which he held for ten years, during which he acted on several occasions as Government Secretary and Deputy-Governor, until 1898, when he finally retired from the Colonial Civil Service. During his official career Mr. Darnell Davis devoted most of his spare time to historical research, which after his retirement became his sole "hobby." He was the greatest living authority on the history of the West Indies, and was always ready and eager to give younger men assistance and advice on that interesting study. His capacity for genealogical research was quite remarkable, and it is on record that through it he was able to put a resident in Barbados into the possession of estates in Scotland which he would not otherwise have obtained. His most important work was "The Cavaliers and Roundheads of Barbados," which has long since gone to a premium in the book store. He was also the author of numerous magazine articles and pamphlets, and was the contributor of many articles of historic value to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, in the development of which he evinced the keenest interest. Indeed, many features of this publication are the outcome of his suggestions. It is a matter for lasting regret that owing to ill-health he was compelled, a few years back, to give up writing a comprehensive historical work on the West Indies upon which he was engaged. Fortunately he preserved with scrupulous care the many paragraphs and articles which he contributed to magazines and the Press, and these, with copious manuscript notes, he presented to the Royal Colonial Institute shortly before his death. Gifted with a keen sense of humour, he described his recreations in a leading biographical work as "knocks off work to carry bricks," an expression of slavery times for change of work. In 1913-14 Mr. Darnell Davis spent his last winter in the West Indies. Already broken in health, he devoted most of his time at Nevis (where he stayed at the Bath House, whose history he had written), Grenada, Barbados, and British Guiana to historical research, and on the homeward voyage he was taken seriously ill. Mr. Darnell Davis was married to Sarah Augusta Haliburton, daughter of the late Rev. John Rainbridge Smith, and grand-daughter of Judge Haliburton ("Sam Slick"), who, with his only daughter, Mrs. Spencer Davis, survives him.

MR. ARTHUR BRAUD.

We regret to state that Mr. Arthur Braud died in London on September 20th.

Mr. Arthur Braud, who was one of the most valued and popular members of the West Indian community in London, went out to British Guiana in the 'seventies, and for some years filled the position of overseer under Mr. Bascom, the proprietor of Anna Regina Estate in Essequibo. From an uncle, Mr. Hanier, his family inherited the Estate of Mon Repos, which he managed for some

years, and of which he eventually became the owner. Leaving the colony, he went to reside at Fontainebleau, near Paris, where his family had lived, and a few years ago he transferred his home to London. Mr. Braud had been seriously ill for two months, and he faced a long and painful illness with great pluck and endurance. With Sir Joseph Godfrey he visited France after the outbreak of war to select a site for Lady Wemyss' hospital, but he was prevented by the state of his health from doing more war work. He was twice married, first to Miss Dalton, sister of Dr. Dalton, by whom he leaves a daughter, and secondly to Miss Garnett, daughter of Henry Garnett, also of Demerara, and sister of Hon. Russell Garnett and the late Harry Garnett, who, with two daughters, survives him.

The family suffered another bereavement on the same day through the death of Mrs. Trotter, widow of the late Henry Garnett, wife of Mr. A. B. Trotter, of Mauritius, and mother of Mrs. Braud. The funeral, which took place at Kensal Green on September 28th, was consequently a double one. The mourners included Sir Joseph Godfrey, Mr. Bastiaans, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. George Perch, Dr. Dalton, Mrs. James, and Mr. Mewburn Garnett, besides members of the family.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### The Budget.

The principal items of new taxation proposed by Mr. McKenna in his Budget statement on September 21st were given in last CIRCULAR. Some extracts from the Chancellor's speech regarding the duties on sugar, cocoa, coffee, etc., will be of interest to readers overseas. At the outset he said that he was afraid that what he was going to propose would satisfy neither the strict Free Trader nor the scientific Tariff Reformer. Both must for the time being put their fiscal theories on one side. We had to tax now with objects beyond revenue, with objects which were purely temporary, and without regard to the permanent effect upon trade. We must look at the state of our foreign exchanges. We must discourage imports. The most important source of new revenue under the head of Customs and Excise would, he said, arise from the duty on sugar, which he proposed to increase from 1s. 10d. to 9s. 4d. per cwt. The whole of this increase of duty would not be effective in the usual way in raising the price to the consumer. At the same time that the duty was increased it was proposed that the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies, which now supplied the whole of the sugar to the consumers of the country, should reduce its price to the refiners and dealers by a general reduction ranging from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a cwt. The Royal Commission had bought very large supplies of sugar at such times and seasons as the market appeared to offer them a favourable opportunity, with the result that they were now in a position to reduce the price to the great advantage of the trade and the consumer, and to the great advantage of the Revenue. The effect, then, of the double action of the increase in the duty and the reduction in price would be to raise the cost of sugar about 5s. a cwt., or a halfpenny in the pound. If this tax were accepted, granulated sugar would be sold at 4d. a pound instead of 3½d. Other kinds of sugar would vary in price according to their quality, but cube sugar as it is known in the trade, or lump sugar, as it is known in domestic circles, would necessarily rise a great deal in price, not on account of the tax, but on account of the shortage of supply. However, the article which was of general consumption, sugar which was then 3½d. would become 4d. a pound. The anticipated Revenue from the increase in the Sugar Tax was £5,360,000 this year, and £11,700,000 in a full year.

Mr. McKenna made no reference in his speech to an excise duty; but an interruption made by Mr. Montagu while Mr. Peto was speaking subsequently made it clear that it was the intention of the Government to impose one. Mr. Peto suggested that we might do something, even during the War, to make sure that in future we

should not be in the unfortunate position with regard to sugar that we had been in. We could produce in this country all the lump sugar we required. There would be a margin of 2s. 4d. a cwt. between the Excise Duty and the Import Duty. The Government would be doing a good turn to agriculture, to the employment of discharged soldiers, and to the supply of this necessary of life, if they also took steps to see that the production of beet sugar in this country was really started on a serious scale forthwith. The Government had gone a long way in this question of sugar. The Government had only to say that, whatever the duty, this distinction of 2s. 4d. would be maintained for a few years—it would not pledge futurity to any material extent—and that they would provide money from the Development Fund, from the Treasury direct, or in whatever way they chose, to establish this industry firmly and permanently in this country.

Resolutions were passed on the same day imposing the new Customs and Excise duties on sugar until August 1st, 1916, as under:—

	Customs. £ s. d.	Excise. £ s. d.
Sugar of a polarisation exceeding 98 degrees, the cwt. ... ..	9 4	7 0
Sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 76 degrees, the cwt. ... ..	4 6	3 4
and intermediate duties varying between 9s. 4d. and 4s. 6d. on sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 98 and exceeding 76 degrees;		
Molasses (including all sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be tested by the polariscope):—		
if containing 70 per cent. or more of sweetening matter, the cwt. ... ..	5 11	4 5
if containing less than 70 per cent. and more than 50 per cent. of sweetening matter, the cwt. ... ..	4 3	3 2
if containing not more than 50 per cent. of sweetening matter, the cwt. ... ..	2 1	1 7
Glucose:—		
solid, the cwt. ... ..	5 11	5 11
liquid, the cwt. ... ..	4 3	4 3
Saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use), the oz. ... ..	3 0	3 0
and so in proportion for any less quantity.		

Before the question was put Mr. Dundas White asked whether it would preclude the possibility of a motion to raise the Excise duty to the same level as the Customs duty. The Chairman of Committees replied that the general principle was that any increased charge on the public could only be imposed on the recommendation of a Minister of the Crown.

#### The Cocoa and Coffee Duties.

Dealing with other products to be taxed, Mr. McKenna said that on tea, tobacco, cocoa, coffee, chicory, and dried fruits an all-round increase was proposed of 50 per cent. on the existing duties. The Committee was so familiar with all the arguments for and against each of these duties that he was sure they would be glad to be spared a repetition. The financial effect of these changes would be to increase the Revenue in a full year from tea by £4,500,000, from tobacco by £5,100,000, from cocoa, coffee and chicory by £200,000, and from dried fruits by £180,000.

The resolutions imposing these duties until August 1st, 1916, were subsequently passed, and the new duties are now

Cocoa, per lb.,	1½d.	Coffee (not kiln dried, roasted or ground),	
Cocoa, husks and shells, per cwt.	3s.	per cwt.	21s.
Cocoa butter, per lb.	1½d.	Coffee (kiln dried, roasted, or ground),	
		per lb.	3d.

#### The Government's Sugar Policy.

On the motion for the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill on September 22nd, Sir Henry Dalziel said that we had had during the last year some gigantic operations on the part of the Government in regard to the supply of sugar in this country. After practically twelve months he had suggested to the Government that it would be a good thing if they could give us a balance sheet of the operations that had taken place, because it was important to note in regard to this matter that the Government held a monopoly with regard to sugar. No one could send sugar into this country except the Government, and therefore we had protection in its most complete form. It was interesting to note that the Government felt themselves able at the present time to reduce the price of sugar by 2s. 6d. to 3s. per cwt. The fact that they were able to do that suggested that for some time sugar had been a little too high, and that it was possible for the Government to fix any price they pleased. They could make the price either low or high, and no one could interfere with them. If they desired to make huge profits, all they had to do was to keep the price high, the public being compelled to assist them all the time. He wanted to know if they had been successful because the price of sugar had been maintained at a high rate because we refused to allow to come into this country sugar from America or Dutch sugar, and consequently there had been no competition. He thought it would be disappointing if some substantial profit had not been made.

He would like to ask whether the Government were satisfied that this monopoly had been successful and what the advantages were that were claimed for it, and if it was intended that it should be continued. There had been a rumour that one firm, as a result of these operations, had made £200,000 since the Government took the matter over.

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Runciman) said that his right hon. Friend had devoted himself mainly to a criticism of what the Government had done or had not done in regard to our food supplies. He was so often well informed that he, Mr. Runciman, was surprised that he should have forgotten many of the large operations which had already been conducted by the Government with the deliberate object of keeping food prices down to a reasonable level and preventing what was even worse than a rise in prices, namely, an absolute shortage, which would have led to a good deal more exploitation, of which he made a good deal in the course of his speech, and the absolute starvation of many among the poorer classes of the country. The first item on which he made some inquiries was sugar. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had been devoting his time, week after week and day after day, to the operation of the Sugar Commission, and he had certainly succeeded in providing in the early months of the War the necessary sugar for our manufactures and for domestic consumption, and in the later months of the War, in spite of German sugar being kept out of this country, which was a strategic move of considerable importance, he had kept the price steady, and the operations throughout the whole of last season have been so successful that it is now possible for him to prophesy, as he did yesterday, a drop in the price of sugar—retail—by something like a halfpenny a pound. That did not sound like absolute failure, and indeed he thought that his right hon. Friend rather recognised that, for he suggested that they might follow the example of the Sugar Commission and deal with other commodities in the same way as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had dealt with sugar.

His right hon. Friend had asked when he could have accounts as to the operations of the Sugar Commission. He was afraid he could not answer his question. It was impossible to square up in a compact twelve months operations which were so gigantic and so world-wide as those in which the Commission had indulged. One of the charges made against the operations of the Commission, and inferentially against the Government which was responsible for it, was that it had succeeded in putting into the pockets of one of the large manufacturers £200,000. He had no knowledge of the amount which had gone into that manufacturer's pocket, but if it was the Chancellor of the



Exchequer's doing that £200,000 went into his pocket, it would be the Chancellor of the Exchequer's doing which would take some of it out of those pockets. Indeed, much the best way of dealing with abnormal profits was that which had been followed by the Government, and the large taxation which had been announced to the House, and received in every quarter with satisfaction, would do a great deal to prevent many of these high profits passing into private hands.

#### The Cocoa and Sugar Duties.

When the Budget resolutions were moved in the House of Commons on September 29th, Members took the opportunity of ventilating their views further. On the cocoa resolution Sir J. D. Rees complained of the preference given to cocoa over tea, which gave rise to sinister interpretations. Mr. McKenna said that he did not take the Hon. Member's statement seriously; sinister conclusions could only be drawn by sinister persons. On the sugar resolution Mr. Lough said that he had not understood Mr. McKenna's statement. He, Mr. McKenna was the greatest sugar merchant. He did not think the House understood that the Government had been making a profit of 1d. per pound. His opinion was that if the ports were opened and the fair import of sugar were permitted from all quarters except enemy countries, the price of sugar would fall very materially. Mr. Outhwaite complained of the sugar tax as being a violation of the principles of taxation for which the Liberal Party in the past had stood. Mr. McKenna, replying to Mr. Lough, said that the Government did not propose to distribute all the sugar profits now, or pay it in to the general revenue, but proposed to wait until the end of the war, and sell the "few hundreds of thousands of tons" over at a lower price than the price at which it was bought! On the subject of the excise tax on sugar, in reply to Mr. Molteno, Mr. McKenna said that excise had not been charged on the experimental manufacture of sugar in order to allow the industry to be started. This practice had been continued in fixing the excise below the customs tax. Mr. S. Samuel hoped that, considering the unbusinesslike manner in which the sugar transactions had been conducted, the Government would be prevented from going into other speculations.

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:

Atwell, Private G. Foster (of Jamaica), Motor Driver, Royal Flying Corps.  
 Cunningham, R. D. S. (of Dominica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.  
 de Boissiere, Lieut. V. R. (of Trinidad), Army Veterinary Corps.  
 Dixon, Lieut. (Health Officer, Port of Spain, Trinidad), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Duncan, R. (of Bermuda), 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.  
 Dunlop, George R. (of Mandeville, Jamaica), 12th Divisional Supply Corps. Motor Despatch Rider.  
 Ford, 2nd Lieut. H. F. B. (son of the late Mr. James Ford, of Jamaica and Colombia), The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
 Gilchrist, 2nd Lieut. F. C. F., 4th Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.  
 Groom, Captain G. R. (West India Regiment), Staff Captain.  
 Hafford, Lieut. William Seymour (son-in-law of the late Mr. Charles Alfred Street, Parkland, Jamaica), 17th Batt. Royal Scots.

Hammond, G. S. (son of Mr. Albert T. Hammond, of Barbados), Volunteer driver for the British Ambulance Committee under the French Military authorities.

Harrigin, 2nd Lieut. W. (of Trinidad), Gordon Highlanders. *At the front.*

Hingley, Major H. S. (late Staff Officer, Jamaica), Middlesex Regiment. Attached to Headquarters Staff.

Howes, 2nd Lieut. H. R., Royal Field Artillery, Special Reserve.

Kenny, Surgeon-General H. H. (served in Jamaica), Deputy Director Medical Services, Northern Command.

Mellado, Private Clifford, 28th London Regiment (Artists' Rifles).

Montgomery, G. B. (of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Flying Corps.

Murray, Corporal Arthur George (son of Mr. Robinson Murray, of Jamaica), King's Royal Rifles.

O'Connor, Captain James L. (of Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana), Army Service Corps. *At the Dardanelles.*

Payne, 2nd Lieut. W. S. L. (of British Guiana), Royal Garrison Artillery.

Potter, C. T. (of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Flying Corps.

Scharschmidt, Lieut. Butler Howard, C.E. (grandson of Mr. M. S. T. Scharschmidt, District Engineer, Manchester, Jamaica), Canadian Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.

Suther, Major (son-in-law of Mr. Hugh B. Hunter, late Manager of the Denney Company, St. Lucia), Commanding C Battery, 92nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Wharton, Private (son of the late Mr. Louis Wharton, K.C., Port of Spain, Trinidad), Honourable Artillery Company.

#### Killed in Action.

CAPTAIN D. CARMICHAEL, of the 9th Batt. Rifle Brigade, who was killed in action on September 5th, was brother-in-law of Mr. T. Greenwood, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.

MAJOR G. H. NEALE, of the 4th Battalion (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regiment, who, we regret to learn, was killed in action in Flanders between September 25th and 29th, was the son of Colonel Neale and brother-in-law of Mr. Edward Chamber, late of British Guiana. He had been at the front since January with the exception of two brief periods of leave.

SECOND LIEUTENANT LESLIE IRVINE LUMSDEN THORNTON, of the Indian Reserve of Officers attached to the 16th Cavalry, who was the only son of Mr. Swinford Leslie Thornton, at one time Resident Magistrate and Puisne Judge, Jamaica, was killed on September 9th in the Persian Gulf.

#### Died of Wounds.

CYRIL A. LINTON, son of Mr. Arthur Linton, of the P.W.D., St. Andrews, Jamaica, died of wounds in France on August 11th.

#### Wounded.

O'Connor, Private J. (of Bermuda), Bermuda Volunteers, attached to Lincolnshire Regiment.

#### Alterations and Corrections.

Bent, H. A. F. (of Kingston, Jamaica), enlisted in Kitchener's Army.

Chandler, 2nd Lieut. W. H. (son of the Rev. J. H. Chandler, Highgate, St. Mary, Jamaica), Notts and Derby Regiment.

Clemetson, 2nd Lieut. D. L. (Part Proprietor, Frontier Pln., St. Mary, Jamaica), late Sergeant 25th Royal Fusiliers, now Pembrokehire Yeomanry.

Coombs, 2nd Lieut. E. (son of Commander Coombs, R.N., late of Trinidad), Indian Cavalry.

Garland, 2nd Lieut. R. D. (son of the late Captain Garland, and grandson of the late Hon. S. C. Burke, M.L.C., St. Andrews, Jamaica), Leinster Regiment. Mr. Garland has just returned from serving with General Botha in German South-West Africa.

Greenwood, Lieut. H. S. (brother of Mr. T. Greenwood, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Greenwood, Captain J. E. (brother of Mr. Thomas Greenwood, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), 5th Batt. East Surrey Regiment.

Greenwood, 2nd Lieut. L. M. (brother of Mr. T. Greenwood, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), 13th Batt. Durham Light Infantry.

Henderson, 2nd Lieut. A. Douglas (member of the staff of Messrs. J. Hales Caird and Co., West India Merchants, and grandson of the late Mr. J. Hales Caird), has been transferred from the London Scottish to the 3/5th Hampshire Regiment.

Hewitt-Jones, Captain J. H., transferred to Army Ordinance Department.

Hunn, Lieut. H. H. (of Trinidad), 18th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers.

Mackinnon, Captain M. A. (of British Guiana), Durham Light Infantry.

Matthey, Captain A. (of British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Riviere, J.P., Sergeant Donald O. (son of the late Hon. D. O. Riviere, M.L.C., Dominica), Dominica Defence Force.

Solby, 2nd Lieut. H. (of Jamaica), Middlesex Regiment.

Smythe, 2nd Lieut. C. St. J. (of Kingston, Jamaica), late Private 28th Batt. R. F. Artists' Rifles, now East Kent Regiment.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE average quantity of sugar used in brewing in the United Kingdom is 155,000 tons per annum.

MR. T. W. O'NEAL, Chancellor of the Diocese of Barbados, who came over recently to offer his services to the Country, has been appointed to the Censor's Department, where he is now working.

OUT of a pay-bill of £205 the labourers on the Golden Vale and neighbouring estates of the United Fruit Company in Jamaica subscribed £45 towards the local Contingent Fund, a splendid example of patriotism.

AS we go to press we learn that the Legislature of the Bahamas has now passed the necessary vote which will enable the colony to send over a further detachment of at least 70 men in addition to the 30 who are already on their way home.

HON. FRED DRIVER, of Montserrat, has not been allowed to enjoy his retirement for long. After 37 years in Montserrat he is still as energetic as ever, and leaves almost immediately in the *Imataka* on a business visit to British Guiana.

THE Committee of the Madras Chamber of Commerce has informed the Anti-German Union of London that its members entirely approve of its objects. The Chamber is inviting a donation of Rs. 10, from each member towards the funds of the Union.

IN the list of bodies concerned in the sugar duties recently brought before the House of Commons the inevitable saccharin appears. The only claim which this drug has to occupy this distinguished position is the fact that it is sweet. Why not also include "sugar of lead," or other poisonous drugs possessing this especial attribute?

MR. H. S. BUNBURY is the author and Mr. B. de C. Reid the composer of a song entitled "Fight for your King and Country" (Jamaica's Call), just published by Astley Clark, Kingston. The song, which has a swinging refrain, which alone should ensure its popularity, is dedicated to Mr. William Wilson, the patriotic founder of the Jamaica Contingent Fund.

MR. HAMEL SMITH, the versatile Editor of *Tropical Life*, contributes to the first number of *Twentieth Century Russia* an article on the Future of Russia as a Trade Centre. He points out that an invigorated Russia will be able to supply us with beet sugar among other commodities. Provided that the sugar is free from the taint of bounties, perhaps it will.

MR. G. FINDLAY SHIRRAS, Director of Statistics to the Government of India, has furnished returns showing that an area of 2,415,000 acres is planted with sugar-cane this year in the chief provinces, as against 2,373,000 acres on this date last year, an increase, notwithstanding the high prices of sugar, of only 2 per cent. The average acreage planted during the previous five years (1909-10 to 1913-14) was 2,196,000 acres. The increase, therefore, is 10 per cent. over the quinquennial average on this date.

IT is requested that those few members of the West India Committee who have failed to pay their subscription for the current year will kindly do so without delay. Though some latitude has been shown this year owing to the war, it is a Rule of the Committee that the CIRCULAR cannot be sent to those over three months in arrears. It is hoped that the few members who, as a matter of courtesy, have received the CIRCULAR for longer than that period in spite of being in arrears, will mark their appreciation by forwarding their dues without further delay.

THE use of calculating machines has become general in recent years; owing to the great increase in the size of commercial transactions and the development of business generally, they have become a necessity. Many of these machines used to come from Germany, but the Muldivo Calculator, some particulars of which are given in our advertising columns, is entirely French made. The manufacturers claim that it assures correct results, and that it can be mastered after a few minutes study. Particulars regarding the instrument can be obtained from the Muldivo Calculating Machine Company, 49, Queen Victoria Street.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

ON the whole, the Free Trade organs have shown commendable restraint in commenting on the import duties in the new Budget. But they could not resist the temptation of crowing when it was announced that the British piano manufacturers had, at a meeting, decided to raise the price of home-made pianos in view of the new duties on foreign ones. It subsequently transpired, however, that our Free Trade friends had discovered a "mare's nest." In a letter published, with its usual fairness, by the *Westminster Gazette* on October 2nd, the Managing Director of John Brinsmead and Sons, Ltd., pointed out that the object of the manufacturers was merely to meet the import duties on component parts for the supply of which they had been compelled to look to France and Canada owing to the shortage of labour at home; they were not raising their prices in order to make bigger profits, through the duties increasing the price of imported pianos; as a matter of fact the rise in the prices of British pianos would be small.

THE West Indian Contingent Fund will benefit from the season of French plays which Madame Lindey will shortly open at the Court Theatre in support of various patriotic funds of the Allies. Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, one of the patronesses who undertook to nominate the English funds to share in the proceeds, has been graciously pleased to include the West Indian Contingent Fund among them. For an entire week the receipts after payment of expenses will be devoted to that fund. It is gratifying to know that the Princess still has at heart the interests of the West Indies, which she visited in two successive winters.

IN the earlier stages of the war civil servants overseas were encouraged to come home and join the Colours. The response was so great that the efficiency of administration became endangered through the depletion of staffs, and leave of absence for military affairs had to be withheld. Undaunted, many officials threw up their posts in order to return home to serve their Country. This had to be stopped for obvious reasons, and the Secretary of State has been compelled to take the drastic measure of warning all concerned that officials may not leave the Colonial Civil Service without permission; otherwise they will be considered dismissed, and will not be accepted to serve the King in any capacity.

ON and after October 11th it will be a criminal offence to offer a friend a drink unaccompanied by a meal in London and other prescribed areas. On that day the "No Treating Order" under the Defence of the Realm Act will come into force in club and pub. The object of the order is, it is hardly necessary to explain, to prevent the treating of our soldiers which, always undesirable, is fre-

quently attended by the most unfortunate results. By the same Order the sale of whiskey, brandy and rum reduced to between 30 and 35 degrees under proof is permitted, and accordingly, in determining whether an offence has been committed under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts by selling to the prejudice of the purchaser brandy, whiskey, rum, or gin not adulterated otherwise than by the admixture of water, it will be a good defence to prove that such admixture has not reduced the spirit more than 35 degrees under proof in the case of whiskey, brandy, or rum.

THE Bishop of London has published a strong indictment against the numerous night clubs which have sprung up in London since the war began. It has for months past been a punishable offence for officers to attend these institutions in uniform, but further and more drastic action is now anticipated. One or two of these clubs are perfectly respectable, and include among their members many leading lights of Society. But the same cannot be said of the majority, which are said to be the resort of harpies who prey upon junior officers. Those unfortunate young men having been fleeced, prefer to grin and bear it rather than face the publicity which a prosecution would involve.

MANY members of the West India Committee though unable to take a place in the firing line are giving their services to their country. Among them is Mr. C. Sandbach Parker who is, in addition to looking after his own business, managing a department of the "Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement" which is responsible for assisting to supply our Allies with munitions of war.

By virtue of Rule III. of the West India Committee, the subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40.) Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

FOR years past one of the visions of the cotton manufacturing world has been the production of a natural black cotton. It is now stated that a planter in the Southern States of America has succeeded in producing a deep green cotton, and is confident of being able to grow a black cotton. According to Reuter, Luther Burbank, the American horticulturist famous for his new types of economic and other plants, considers that the near future will see black cotton grown, and thus solve a great dye difficulty.

\* \* \*

THE extending use of palm-kernel cake for cattle feeding has brought with it many problems which require solution. A prominent one is the effect of the cake on the milk yield, and J. Hanscn, in the *Monthly Bulletin*, concludes, as the result of observation, that while the yield of milk is not affected, the fat content is increased. This increase is proportional to two factors, viz., the amount of palm-cake used and the proportion of oil left in the cake; in other words, it is in direct proportion to the amount of oil taken in the cake.

\* \* \*

SOME wise words on the subject of the use of fertilisers have recently appeared by a correspondent in the *Philippine Agriculturist and Trader*. Among these, he says that the most rapid possible advance in the use of fertilisers is made by enrolling farmers as experimenters, by helping them to institute and properly control their experiments, and by taking care that they understand that failure with one fertiliser and in one place is no more reason for discouragement than success with another fertiliser and in another place is a reason for a general adoption of locally successful methods.

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SINCE May of last year a disease of bananas, resembling in some external symptoms the Panama disease, has been under observation at Pusa, in India. The diseased plants, from a distance, look as if they were suffering from drought or bad cultivation. The lower leaves begin to turn yellow, generally from the margin inwards, and ultimately become brown and shrivelled up. The leaf stalks lose their healthy colour, become soft and watery, and the trunk splits lengthways. The newly diseased inner leaf sheaths show the point of infection by the presence of discoloured red or brown spots, which have a dark centre surrounded by a diffused lighter area.

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AS to remedial measures, the *Agricultural Journal of India* states that inoculation by the injection, with a hypodermic syringe, of *Fusarium* spores suspended in distilled water has been successful. The inoculations were performed either in the heart leaf or the underground stem. From the preliminary study of the pure cultures obtained from the diseased parts, it seems that this *Fusarium* with a cephalosporium stage differs from that assigned as the cause of the Panama disease.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Recruiting for the West Indian Contingent was proceeding with enthusiasm, in those islands which had not already completed their detachments, when the last homeward mail steamer left. The R.M.S. *Mexico*, which was delayed by the obstruction in the Panama Canal, to which reference is made elsewhere, reached Tilbury on October 1st, six days late. Below are extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by that and other recent opportunities.

## ANTIGUA—A Local War Fund Started.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, AUGUST 2nd.—At last Antigua has received the Call! Large and enthusiastic recruiting meetings have been held at Bishop Mather's schoolroom and elsewhere. The speakers have included the Bishop and the Rev. W. Foote, of Parham, while Miss Robinson made a special appeal to the women of Antigua. A War Fund has been started under the auspices of the Acting Governor, Lady Maxwell, Mr. Whyham, Hon. J. J. Comacho, Hon. R. A. L. Warneford, Dr. Oliphant, and Hon. F. Griffith. Miss Robinson raised £22 towards the Fund through an afternoon entertainment—a splendid example to others. The results of recruiting have been satisfactory, but it is astonishing to find how many strong young men urge others to offer their lives while offering every kind of excuse to save their own skins. Mr. Cowley proceeded to refer to the noble sacrifice made by Mr. James Lake and Mr. Percival, to whose deaths reference has already been made.

Sir Hesketh Bell returned on July 28th, and met with an enthusiastic reception, two addresses being presented to him, one from the Agricultural and Commercial Society and the other from the people.

Mr. A. St. G. Spooner, who left some years ago for Jamaica, has returned to Antigua as manager of Benda's. We are all glad to have him back.

Mr. W. Conacher was married at All Saints' Church on Sept. 1st to Miss McSevney, daughter of Mr. McSevney, of Parham New Works. The wedding was a very pretty one, though quiet, owing to a bereavement in the bride's family. Mr. Conacher will leave shortly for St. Kitts to take up his duties as manager of the Central Factory there.

Weather conditions are still favourable, though the rainfall is irregular, some estates to the West getting four inches without a drop falling to windward.

## BAHAMAS—The Local Contingent leaves Nassau

The *Nassau Guardian* of September 11th gives an account of the inspection of the Bahamas Contingent in the Barracks Yard by the Governor, Mr. W. L. Allardyce, on September 6th, following an impressive church parade on the preceding day. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Allardyce and the Chief Justice, and was attended by Mr. A. D. Sherwood Smith, Private Secretary, addressed some words of encouragement to the men, who were paraded under their Commandant, Mr. R. H. C. Crawford. On Tuesday, September 7th, Mrs. Allardyce presented the Colours, which had been furnished by the Daughters of the Empire. On the following day there was a garden party at Government House in honour of the men who sailed on September 9th for Jamaica en route for England and the front. Nassau was gaily decorated with bunting for the occasion, and the Governor, who was preceded by his Piper, having formally handed over the Contingent to the care of Mr. W. F. Albury, the men left amid such a scene of enthusiasm as has rarely before been witnessed in New Providence. The recruiting Committee, which comprised Mr. R. H. C. Crawford, Mr. G. M. Cole, Mr. S. A. Dillet, Mr. L. W. Young, and Mr. R. S. D. Moseley, were the recipients of many congratulations upon the success of their efforts.

**BARBADOS—Recruiting Proceeding Apace.**

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., SEPT. 8th.—The recruiting Committee are busy getting men for the half-company which Barbados will contribute to the West Indian Contingent. There was a public meeting on Saturday afternoon (Sept. 4th) in Queen's Park, Bridgetown, at which very able, eloquent, and stirring speeches were made by Hon. C. P. Clarke, Mr. W. L. C. Phillips, Major J. A. Burdon, and Mr. W. H. Lofly, M.C.P. We hope to see the result of it in an increase in the number of recruits this week. The Railway Bill providing for a subsidy to the Company for a further period of ten years passed its second reading in the House of Assembly yesterday, but the committee stage was not finished. It will be proceeded with on Tuesday next. We have been blessed with splendid weather for the crops, and if the rain continues the crop of next year should come near the record crop of 1890.

Mr. Alistair Cameron writes informing us that Mr. Joseph W. Gooding has been drowned whilst bathing near the Crane Hotel. Mr. Gooding was formerly an overseer on Messrs. Thomas Daniel & Co.'s estates. He was promoted to the management of "Durants," and subsequently became Manager of Kent. He was a splendid agriculturist and a loyal and hard-working manager. His death will be a great loss to the planting community and to his many friends.

Miss Kate Packer, daughter of the late Mr. Lewis Packer, has been married to Capt. Partridge, R.N.R., of the R.M.S. *Canquet*, and returned to England with her husband in the R.M.S. *Mexico*.

**BRITISH GUIANA—Enthusiasm in Georgetown.**

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, SEPTEMBER 4th.—The advance party of the British Guiana detachment of the West Indian Contingent had a very enthusiastic "send off." The men were paraded at Eye Leary and marched to Government House, where they were inspected and addressed by the Governor, Sir Walter Egerton. They then proceeded to the Town Hall, where the Mayor of Georgetown bade them God-speed, presenting a sovereign to each man. It is many a day since there has been such a crowd congregated in Georgetown. An overcoat fund has been started for the men of the second detachment.

The aircraft fund has now reached \$8,000. Lieut. C. J. Parker has arrived and taken up his duties as Private Secretary and A.D.C. to the Governor. The Government is inviting applications for \$90,000 4½ per cent. Debentures to be issued at par. The weather is too dry, and showers would be beneficial generally.

**DOMINICA—Reassuring Crop News.**

MR. E. A. AGAR, SEPTEMBER 2nd.—Rain has fallen persistently during the past fortnight, but in spite of the storm on the 10th the total fall for the month is but little above a ten years' average. We had also ten days last month on which thunder was audible, which is more than for any month in recent years.

From everywhere one learns that the storm did less damage to crops than even the optimistic thought, and in some places the lime trees are just beginning to flower again; but it is too soon to say whether this flowering will be good or not—probably it will be.

Both Sir Hesketh Bell and Sir George Le Hunte were on board the mail boat when she passed up last week, but the weather was so wet that neither landed. I hear that the Governor is coming back on the 4th to pay the island a visit, and that Sir George will be returning to Trinidad. I hope Sir Hesketh may have an opportunity of seeing how far we have advanced since the days when he was Administrator of Dominica.

**JAMAICA—The War Funds still growing.**

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, AUGUST.—The weather during the month was very hot and oppressive. The maximum temperature was 93.5° F. the minimum 71.60° F. and the mean 81.40° F. The rainfall was nearly twice the average, being 6.24 inches, and there have been frequent thunderstorms throughout the month. The maximum velocity of the wind was 50 miles an hour

on August 13th, when a severe storm passed to the north of the island, but inflicting serious damage to the plantations and property over the whole island and particularly on the north side. Between 80 and 90 per cent. of the banana crop was destroyed, and much material damage to private and Government properties. The losses were not, however, anything to be compared to those suffered in the 1903 hurricane. Railway communication with Port Antonio has been stopped owing to the track, for a long distance, along the shore, between Buff Bay and Port Antonio, having been destroyed. The cost of restoring the railway line is estimated to be between £25,000 and £30,000, and is not expected to be open for eight or ten weeks. At Holland Bay the Cable House was blown down and cable communication interrupted. Along the sea coast generally damage was done by the waves which overwhelmed everything in the immediate vicinity of the shore. It is expected that the Legislative Council will be summoned shortly to deal with the situation arising out of the storm and to provide relief, if that is considered to be absolutely necessary. The Cayman Islands also suffered severely. Cayman Brac appears to have been in the path of the cyclone, and much damage with loss of life occurred there.

The Jamaica War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	6733	7	9
Jamaica War Contingent Woman's Fund	455	5	7
Jamaica War Contingent Flag Day	1519	0	10
Jamaica Red Cross Nurse Fund	26	0	6
Jamaica Alexandra Aeroplane Fund	665	7	0
Suffering Jews in Poland Fund	286	12	10

The other Funds remain unchanged, but are still active.

It has been announced that arrangements are now being made to mobilize the Jamaica Contingent for active service, and the men are holding themselves in readiness to undergo the necessary training.

The annual National Exhibition took place at Toronto as usual. Jamaica was not officially represented, but Mr. C. S. Pickford, of Halifax, looked after the few private exhibits that were sent. The monthly meeting of the Merchants' Exchange held on the 10th August, a resolution was passed bringing before the Imperial Government the importance of the West Indies as a sugar-producing centre. The resolution has been sent to the Secretary of the West India Committee for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The 62nd half-yearly meeting of the Kingston Ice-making Company was held on the 13th, and a dividend of 1s. 9d. and 2s. respectively per share of 17s. 6d. and 20s. was declared.

The Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Association have declared a bonus of £26,874 to its policy holders.

A large American film producing company have sent a company of players here, who are now working to produce what the manager says will be the "greatest ever." £30,000 to £40,000 will be expended in the effort.

**ST. KITTS—The Recruiting Committee's Efforts.**

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, SEPTEMBER 2nd.—The weather is exceptionally hot and close, with local thunderstorms and showers. For instance, Brotherson's Estate registered 5.92 inches of rain from 11 till 2 p.m. on the 30th ult. The countryside is looking well—everything fresh, green, and growing.

A strong recruiting Committee has been busy in the island during the last fortnight. It comprises Mr. D. H. Semper, Mr. Wilfred Wigley, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Malone, Major Wilders, Captain Matheson, and Captain Reid. A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at the Court House on August 30th. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Semper and Dr. Fretz, and the speakers included Messrs. E. R. Jones, Jefferson and A. H. Seaton, Venerable Archdeacon Caunt, Rev. Saywell, and Rev. Father Bendin. The response of our people on the whole has been most gratifying, more men coming forward than are immediately required, members of the Defence Force being well to the fore.

I regret to have to mention the death on the 21st ult., at

Old Government House, of Dr. J. Nunes Rat, a cultured gentleman and a clever doctor whose services will be missed by many in our community.

#### TOBAGO.—Twenty Recruits for the Contingent.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, SEPTEMBER 3rd.—The weather has been exceedingly warm, but we have had 2.85 inches of rain. The tobacco crop is coming to market satisfactorily. One firm is distributing free packets of heavy-bodied Blue Prior seed.

A first batch of twenty accepted recruits have left for Port of Spain. The clergy have been assisting the recruiting cause.

Woodhall cacao estate has been sold to buyers in Grenada, who have renamed it "Cameron Canal," its old-time title. The West Indian Plantation Syndicate, Ltd., has sold some lands at "Louis d'Or" to Mr. Weir-Cathart, owner of Agenza estate in the same (windward) district.

Nine delegates from Trinidad, including the Hon. Dr. Lawrence, M.L.C., Mr. C. B. Franklin, and that charming raconteur Mr. Lewis Inmiss, known throughout the West Indies as "Verbum Sap," arrived for the Trinidad and Tobago Sunday School Convention. They spent two days in the island, and enjoyed themselves immensely, especially the Scotch-Canadian clergy.

(An account of a visit of Agriculturists from Trinidad, which is unavoidably held over, will be published in next issue.)

#### TRINIDAD—An Oil Well at Barrackpore gushes.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUGUST 27th.—Recruiting is going along merrily, and it is hoped that the number of men required for the Public Contingent will soon have passed muster and be ready for transport. The Merchants' Contingent is also going strong. (Mr. Tripp's remarks with regard to this are published in another column.) The officers of the Public Contingent now going into barracks are: Major A. M. McCulloch, Captain A. E. Harrigan, Captain E. B. Connell, Captain J. H. L. Cavenaugh, and 2nd Lieuts. W. H. McM. Gooden-Chisholm, A. S. Lowson, L. R. Wheeler, R. Johnstone, and E. V. Bynoe. Only transport is now wanting to get the Trinidad boys away.

Legislative action has assured the women's vote in Port of Spain. We have had rather too long a spell of dry weather lately, but the welcome rain is again falling, and the coming crops of all descriptions show happy promise.

SEPTEMBER 16th.—Well No. 7 of the Trinidad Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., at Barrackpore, gushed for the third time the other day, and yielded about 100,000 barrels in 48 hours, a great portion of which was saved. Local shareholders have a considerable interest in this Company, which has for some time been a regular producer, and has disposed of quantities to the sugar factories, etc., so that its steady success is all the more welcome.

#### TURKS ISLANDS—Cotton growing in Caicos.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, Sept. 28th.—Up to the end of July practically no salt had been raked this season at Grand Turk; at Salt Cay they had a fair month. At Cockburn Harbour they have enough salt of excellent quality in the ponds to keep them steadily raking and carting well into the New Year.

Mr. Gore, the United States Consul, and Mrs. Gore have left for New York en route for Western Canada. Mr. W. S. Jones, Vice-Consul, has been appointed Consular Agent.

News has been received from New York of the death of Mr. Alfred Darrell, who managed the salt ponds of the late Mr. John W. Darrell at Grand Turk.

Quite a quantity of fibre has been shipped to New York, and both at Jacksonville and Grand Turk they are still extracting fibre. At the former they shut down on the 30th July, and some six weeks were expected to elapse before they got the labourers together to work again. Quantities of sponge were shipped during July, for which good prices have been obtained. Quantities of conch shells are being shipped to the United States by every available steamer. Cotton growing is being taken up in some parts of the Caicos group, and from reports to hand it is making good progress. None so far has been grown at Grand Turk.

### VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. W. J. Robson
Major E. F. Becher	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
Mr. A. Campbell	His Honour Leslie	Mr. F. B. Shand
Mr. J. W. Cathart	Jarvis	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Arthur E. Clodd	Mr. M. Moody-Stuart	and
Hon. H. Ferguson	Mr. T. W. O'Neil	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. E. Fitzgerald	Mr. A. E. Perkins	
Mr. W. M. Fletcher	Mr. W. C. Robertson	

Mr. J. R. Bancroft, c/o Messrs. Samuel Dobree & Son, 7, Moorgate St., E.C.  
 Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.

The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Hon. P. J. Dean, St. Brannocks, Mundesley, Norfolk.  
 Mr. T. L. Donsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Rood Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. J. Freland Foote, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 173, West George Street, Glasgow.

Mr. J. A. Gordon, c/o C. W. Stevens, Esq., 16, Great St. Helens, E.C.  
 Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
 Mr. S. W. Mathews, The Plains, Wetheral, Carlisle.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 Mr. H. C. Morcom, Great Meols, Cheshire.  
 Mr. F. J. Morris, 4, Chauden Gardens, N.W.  
 Mr. J. J. Rodrigues, c/o Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons, 119, Cannon St., E.C.  
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
 Mr. E. C. Skinner, "Fairview," Mayfield, Sussex.  
 Mr. S. H. Taylor, Charterhouse Hotel, Charterhouse Square, E.C.  
 Mr. J. B. Waihi, c/o Miss Hobills, 13, Beaumont Street, W.  
 Mr. H. F. Wildy, 49, Church Lane, Hornsey, N.

### WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

#### The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th, 1915, show a net profit of £30,754 15s. 3d. (as compared with £22,755 6s. 2d. for the corresponding period last year), making with the balance of £36,134 19s. 10d. brought forward from the preceding half-year, a total of £66,889 15s. 1d. available as compared with £53,682 5s. 3d. at the same date in 1914. Out of this balance the directors, after setting aside the sum of £18,000 as further provision for the depreciation of investments, recommended the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year, which will absorb £18,000, leaving £30,889 15s. 1d. to be carried forward, as compared with £35,682 5s. 3d. at the same date last year. Of the authorised capital of £2,000,000 in 100,000 shares £600,000 has been paid up. On the debit side of the Balance Sheet there also figure the reserve £100,000, and the special reserve for depreciation of investments at £50,000; notes in circulation £429,637 11s. 8d.; deposits at interest, current accounts, etc., £2,203,247 5s. 10d.; and bills payable and other liabilities £475,389 4s. 5d. On the credit side appear: Specie at £434,573; cash at London bankers and at Call and Short Notice £191,569 0s. 5d.; English and Colonial Government and other Investments held in London £1,154,688 6s. 10d.; bills receivable, etc., £913,568 3s. 4d.; Due in the colonies on current accounts £304,123 18s. 9d.; Bills discounted in the Colonies, bills in transit and advances on security £886,641 4s. 2d., and bank premises and furniture in London and the Colonies, £80,000. The Directors, in their report, state that the business of the Bank continues to be well maintained.

#### The Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.

The directors in their report for the year ended 30th June, 1915, which was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on September 16th, state that the net result is an available balance of £13,552 12s. 2d., as compared with £7,865 15s. 9d. for the previous year. An interim dividend of 3 per cent., free of income tax, has already been paid, and a further equal payment, free of income tax, is now made, which leaves £11,752 12s. 2d. to be carried forward, as against £6,065 15s. 9d. at the same date last year. The balance to credit of revenue account, which was last year £54,988 14s. 5d. (as against £48,022 18s. 8d.), has been debited with £900 applied to dividend, and with £2,521 19s. 4d. expended in repairs and renewals, and credited with £11,752 12s. 2d. surplus revenue of the past year, and it now stands at £63,319 7s. 3d. (as against £54,088 14s. 5d.).

The Company's cable was for a few days interrupted

near Jamaica by earthquake; otherwise the cables have worked efficiently during the year. During the year the remaining debentures (£8,000) have been paid off. The shareholders approved the establishment of a Pension Scheme for the Staff. Sir Thomas Skinner and Mr. W. M. Kent retired, and, being eligible, were re-elected. The Auditors, Messrs. Holroyd, West and Northcott, also retired, and were re-elected.

**The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.**

The production of petroleum for the week ended Wednesday, September 22nd, was 823 tons.

Latest Quotations.		PRICE
		Oct. 2
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Barbados ... 3 3/4 % Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1927-45	94
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	97 1/2
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1914	83 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	75
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1927-44	95
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	94
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	74
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	87 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank ... ..	87 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...	80 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...	89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	87 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	100
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures ...	100
	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	147
	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	97 1/2
	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	5/9
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares) ...	213-2 6
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid) ...	3
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	28
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	102
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref. ...	74
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	85
16	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	32 1/4
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref	84
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd" and "	84
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	90

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Aug. 26, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Sept. 4, 1915	1914
Sugar ...	54,817	45,239 Tons.	13,563	11,911 Tons.
Molasses ...		82,770 Puns.		
Rum ...	2,748,506	1,572,133 Galls.	1,082,086	976,494 Galls.
Molasses, &c. ...	1,273	1,069 Tons.		
Cacao ...	58,174	33,437 lbs.	6,944,896	6,830,888 lbs.
Coffee ...	172,185	238,746 "	5,812,352	5,746,272 "
Coco-nuts ...	1,308,215	1,252,825 No.	18,612,514	19,606,750 No.
Oranges ...			3,099,700	2,737,600 "
Bananas ...			7,535,979	13,335,938 Stems.
Cotton ...			33,240	32,607 lbs.
Pimento ...			41,168	64,027 Cwts.
Ginger ...			9,972	16,766 "
Honey ...			112,583	139,143 Galls.
Dyewoods ...			31,895	43,291 Tons.
Gold ...	37,525	37,765 Ozs.		
Diamonds ...	471	9,517 Carats.		
Rice ...	14,538,502	9,808,117 lbs.		
Balata ...	880,185	421,626 "		
Rubber ...	1,979	782 "	Arrwt. 3,027,575	2,884,745 lbs.
Timber ...	93,119	172,079 cub. ft.	Cacao 102,151	126,819 "
Lumber ...	103,045	226,199 ft.	Cotton 212,917	505,222 "
Line (citrize of) ...	11,118	3,717 lbs.	.. Seed 378,659	707,028 "

	Trinidad.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 15, 1915	1914
Sugar ...	39,635	45,085 Tons.
Molasses ...	4,317	3,276 Puns.
Rum ...	5,314	769 "
Coco-nuts ...	7,198,750	10,847,575 No.
Asphalt ...	69,891	112,742 Tons.
Manjak ...	496	171 "
Bitters ...	11,468	13,057 Cases.
Coffee ...	10,560	13,440 lbs.
Crude Petrol ...	5,341,224	11,972,748 Galls.
Cacao ...	42,938,800	59,791,600 lbs.
Cotton ...	.. Seed	
Opira ...	16,759	6,723 Bags.
Spice ...	..	
Rola ...	..	

	Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to Aug. 26, 1915	1914
Sugar ...	28,508	30,428 Tons.
Molasses ...	49,103	89,681 Puns.

	Grenada.	
	Oct. 1 to Sept. 5, 1914/15	1913/14
Coffee ...	11,126,340	11,773,620 lbs.
Cacao ...	1,188	1,172 Bales
Cotton ...	1,014	3,554 Bags
Opira ...	273	196 "
Spice ...	1,271,520	1,205,620 lbs.
Rola ...	6,000	8,090 "

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE**—Stands at 5 per cent. as from the 8th August, 1914. Old War Loan is quoted at 92 1/2; New, cum rights 97 1/2, ex rights 97 1/2. The price of Consols is 65 1/2.

**SUGAR**—The great feature of the fortnight has been the Budget, an outline of which as regards taxation was given in the last WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR at the moment of going to press. As was expected, a substantial increase in the duty on sugar was made. The old duty started at 16s. 8d. per ton for sugars polarising 76° and under, rising by equal increments to £1 16s. 8d. per ton for 98° and over sugars. The new duty begins at £4 10s. per ton for 76° sugars, rising in a similar manner to £9 6s. 8d. per ton for 98° and over sugars.

In announcing the new sugar duties, Mr. McKenna stated that the Royal Commission had "bought very large supplies of Sugar at such times and seasons as the market appeared to offer a favourable opportunity, with the result that we are now in a position to reduce the price to the great advantage of the trade and the consumer," and announced a reduction in the bond price of sugar equal to £2 10s. to £3 per ton. This remark of Mr. McKenna was singularly unfortunate. Since its utterance the world's price of sugar has dropped heavily, the value of 96° sugars in the New York market having fallen to \$3.60, and the Royal Commission has simply repeated its exploits of last year by buying large supplies with the price up against it, a price which the statistical position of sugar did not justify. The result is that, even with the £3 reduction in price, the bond value of sugar is considerably above the natural price. If the bond prices of granulated in London and New York on the 31st of July, 1914 (four days before the declaration of war) are compared with the present prices, the increase in value in New York is 13 per cent., while that in London is 47 per cent. The British consumer, therefore, is in a far more unfavourable position than the American. Some allowance, of course, must be made for the competition in the United States of the local beet crop and for the closer proximity of the sources of supply, but even with this allowance, the fact remains that, notwithstanding the £3 reduction in price of Government sugar, the operations of the Royal Commission are still causing the British consumer to pay a higher price for his sugar than if this country's markets were open to free competition. While Mr. McKenna admits that the Commission has made large profits out of sugar, he claims that the price actually charged to the consumer is less than it would be if he had been left to the mercy of the speculator. Sugar is one of those products which, on account of the multiplicity of the sources of supply, does not admit of being cornered, and the consumer has never seriously suffered from speculation in respect of it. But what he is suffering from is the result of the operations of the Royal Commission. He has to pay two excess charges—the one due to the high price paid to the foreign producer, and the other the excessive profits of the Royal Commission. The latter he does not mind paying, but to being a party to the former he has the greatest objection. It is true that Mr. McKenna states that the acknowledged large profits of the Royal Commission will, at the end of the war, be devoted to cheapening the "several hundreds of thousands of tons of sugar" remaining in the Government's hands, but that body surely cannot seriously contemplate such an irregular and disturbing step.

Coincident with the higher sugar duties the price of cubes has been raised by the Commission to £50 10s. per ton, duty paid. The difference in the value of cubes and granulated is now £17 5s. per ton; before the Budget it was £3. The extremely high price of cubes in comparison with granulated is not a question of duty, as the same duty is paid in each case, but is stated to be due to the desire of the Government to decrease the consumption of this kind of sugar, and thus give our refiners a greater power of output of granulated. In doing this, the Commission acquires an extra profit of £14 per ton on sales of this class of sugar, which it naively announces will be

devoted to cheapening granulated sugar. At present New York prices the Royal Commission's price of granulated admits of a profit of over £3 per ton. There is therefore room for cheapening, and this will be further aided by the introduction and sale of American cubes at £50 per ton by the Government.

An important feature in the Budget is the fixing of an Excise duty on home-grown sugar. Up to the present this sugar has been allowed, as an act of grace and for the purpose of encouraging the industry, to receive the benefit of the late Customs duty in entirety, no Excise having been in force. With the imposition of a high import duty, which in the absence of an Excise tax would have given excessive protection to this sugar, an Excise tax had to be imposed, and this has been done to the extent of £7 per ton for 98° and over sugars, with a proportionate duty for lower grades and for molasses. High-grade home-grown sugars are thus protected definitely to the extent of £2 6s. 8d. per ton, just below the limit allowed by the Brussels Convention, to which Great Britain does not belong, but to the terms of which the Government has pledged Great Britain to adhere.

To meet a trouble arising from the reduction in the bond price of sugar, a rebate of price of £3 per ton has been given to purchasers of Government sugars in bond on the evening of the 20th, the day before the duties became operative. No provision has, however, been made for dealing with the case of the buyers of license imported West Indian sugars, who were similarly prejudiced by the action of the Royal Commission in reducing prices. The trade was consequently considerably paralysed, and no auctions took place, although small private sales took place at prices representing 29s. 6d. for good middling yellow. These sales represented previous rates less the 3s. lowering of the price for Government sugars.

Auction sales were resumed on the 1st inst., but there was very little demand, only 87 tons being sold of the 1,035 tons offered. These fetched previous prices.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to September 25th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	42,930	26,873	34,712	24,172	32,552
Deliveries ...	33,542	28,017	22,329	23,437	28,836
Stock (Sept. 25)	15,397	11,808	14,223	5,225	8,076

In the New York market there has been a heavy drop in prices since the date of last CIRCULAR, and duty-paid 96° now stands at \$3.60. The price of duty-paid granulated has also fallen to \$4.80. Purchases of granulated for Great Britain and France have been reported at \$3.60 f.o.b.—equivalent at the present rate of exchange to about £17 per ton. The total buyings of this class of sugar for Great Britain amounts to over 100,000 tons. The reports of the growing Cuban crop are favourable, and the Western beet crop is turning out well. According to Willett and Gray, sales of Cuban sugar for January delivery have been made at a price only leaving a very moderate profit on the cost of production.

**RUM**—There is no change to report in the market for Jamaica, but the present tone is firm. The market for proof kinds is very firm, with an upward tendency. Ordinary Demerara may be quoted at 3s. to 3s. 1d. per proof gallon.

The rum stocks in London on September 25th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	4,595	8,398	7,453	9,137	10,915
Demerara ...	5,612	8,880	7,459	6,670	4,609
Total, all kinds	21,876	24,335	22,650	24,069	24,715

**CACAO** The duty on cacao has been raised 50 per cent.—that is, is now 1½d. per lb. instead of 1d. This is only equivalent to about 5 per cent. on the bond value of the cacao, and is not likely to seriously affect sales. That this is the case was exemplified by the results of the auction sales on the 25th, when the market, although slow, was steady. 965 bags of British West Indian were offered, a good portion of which was sold at previous rates. Out of 759 bags of Jamaica, 390 sold at prices ranging from 74s. to 80s. for ordinary to very fine. Only 146 bags of Trinidad were put up, and of these 40 bags were disposed of at from 84s. to 85s. Three bags of Dominica were bought in, and of

the 17 bags of Grenada, part sold at 76s. Ten bags of St. Lucia, 9 bags of Montserrat, and 8 bags of Demerara were bought in. Some Colombian cacao sold as high as 120s.

At auction sales to-day, upwards of 9,300 bags were offered, of which 1,414 bags were West Indian. The demand was slow. 717 bags Trinidad were part sold at 75s. to 86s.; 548 bags Jamaica were part sold at 77s. to 80s. 6d.; 80 bags Dominica were part sold at 75s. 6d. to 78s.; 44 bags Grenada were mostly sold at 73s.; and 77 bags St. Vincent and 8 bags St. Lucia were bought in.

The stocks in London on September 25th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	15,267	12,470	12,955	7,028	8,527
Grenada ...	3,709	7,786	5,007	4,005	11,416
Total, all kinds	113,102	90,974	90,559	110,585	110,276

**COFFEE**—The extra 1d. duty imposed by the Budget has had no material effect upon prices. At auction sales on the 28th 2,060 bags were offered, and although sales were slow, a considerable proportion was disposed of at standing prices. The 90 bags of Jamaica offered were bought in.

**COTTON**—Since our last report a good business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton, chiefly at prices ranging from 14½d. to 16d., with St. Vincent at 16d. to 19d. The sales amounted to 700 bales, including 300 stains at 7d. 4,447 hales West Indian were imported during the nine months of the year.

**ARROWROOT**—Market remains steady. Sales of 800 barrels St. Vincent have been reported. Present value 2d to 4½d.

**SPICES**—Ginger is unchanged, with little demand. Holders are asking full rates for the moderate supplies on hand. Nutmegs are unchanged at 100/80's 4½d. to 6½d.; 120/100's 4½d. to 4¾d.; 140/120's at 4½d. to 4¾d. Mace slightly lower; good to fine 2s. 2d. to 2s. 7d.; red to good 1s. 7d. to 2s. 1d.; broken 6d. to 1s. 6d.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil Distilled has sold steadily at 7s. 6d. in small lots, but this price will be sure to lower in view of the heavier supplies arriving. There have been no enquiries for hand-pressed. Lime Juice A fair business has been done in raw Dominica at 2s. 6d. to 3s., but buyers are holding off in anticipation of heavier supplies. Concentrated is firm, with further sales at £30. Citrate of Lime is unchanged at £25 per pipe c.i.f. New York.

**RUBBER**—The market has been steady, with slightly higher prices. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2s. 4½d.; fine hard Para at 2s. 4½d.; fine soft Para 2s. 4d. The value of Castilloa sheet is 2s. 2d., and of scrap 1s. 9d.

**BALATA**—Venezuela block is flat, with little or no change to report. Value may be quoted at 1s. 8½d. c.i.f. Panama block is quoted at 1s. 6½d. c.i.f. Some forward business has been done in West Indian sheet at 2s. 3d. c.i.f.; the spot value is 2s. 3d.

**HONEY**—The market remains firm but quiet. Importers are asking for some advance in light of the higher duty on sugar, which has raised sugar prices. Sellers' terms at present are 30s. to 33s. for dark to fine liquid.

**COPRA**—There are no sales to report in West Indian. The market generally is steady with considerable demand. West Indian may be quoted at £24 5s.

**MANURES**—The market for Sulphate of Ammonia has been steady to firm; quotation £15. Nitrate of Soda has had an upward tendency. Prices, £13 7s. 6d. to £13 10s. There has been a good demand for ordinary Superphosphate which may be quoted at £4 15s. to £5, while concentrated is unchanged at £4 15s. to £5. There has been a strong demand for Basic Slag, which is fetching £3 5s. to £3 7s. 6d.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—American is quoted at 9½d. water white at 10½d.

October 5th, 1915. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular.

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October 18th, 1915.

### BACTERISED PEAT.

THAT which would have attracted universal attention in times of peace is apt to be passed by unnoticed when the atmosphere is charged with war. Notwithstanding, however, the adverse conditions, the Press has taken considerable notice of PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY'S recent announcements on the subject of what he styles "Bacterised peat," or "Humogen," as it is now to be called. It will be remembered that some years back PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY, who occupies the Chair of Botany at King's College, London, announced that he had been able to induce the growth of nodes on the roots of certain plants similar to those existing on the roots of leguminous plants, a property which had previously been regarded as an especial attribute of *Leguminosæ*. These nodes are the home of the bacilli, with which they swarm, whose function is to take the nitrogen of the atmosphere and prepare it in a form suitable for assimilation by the plant. By taking the bacilli from leguminous nodes and bringing them up through several generations on the juice of the particular plant for the cultivation of which they were intended, PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY claimed that, if the soil in which the particular plant was cultivated was inoculated with the culture thus prepared, nodes would be formed on its roots of a similar character to those formed on the roots of leguminous plants. Experiments with "Nitro-bacterine," as the product was styled, especially prepared for the purpose at the instance of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, were made in con-

nection with cane cultivation, but, unfortunately, gave negative results. The general failure of Nitro-bacterine led PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY to turn his attention to the cause of it, and this eventually brought him on the track of his present results. It can be readily understood that the whole question of the work done by bacilli depends upon their being able to obtain suitable food under suitable conditions. In these, humus plays an important part, and the consideration of this fact directed experiments towards the utilisation of the humus of peat for this purpose. By treating peat with an especial bacillus, the nature of which is not revealed, the humus is so prepared that it forms a very suitable food for the azotobacter, or nitrogen bacillus. If the peat so treated is sterilised and then again inoculated, this time with azotobacter, a medium is obtained which contains not only the bacillus identified with the nitrogen absorption and an inoculation, but also a suitable food for it. In March last PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY delivered a lecture on the subject at the Royal Society of Arts, and gave illustrations of the ready growth of plants where the soil in which they had been planted had been inoculated with the bacterised peat. The food in these instances, thus applied, was manifestly in minute quantity in relation to the work to be done by the bacilli, and it was suggested that the chemical body prepared from the humus of the peat by the first bacterial treatment acted in relation to the azotobacter in the same way as the class of food products called "accessories," that is, chemical bodies existing in comparatively small quantity which are essential to the proper digestion and assimilation of food generally, as in the food of man. The results then announced have been recently added to, and PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY is now able to show very striking instances of benefit from the use of bacterised peat. Among these is that of potatoes grown in a box which merely contained, in the first instance, seed potatoes and moss, but which, only watered with a solution of bacterised peat, gave an excellent crop. If PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY'S results bear the test of field use in connection with agriculture generally, the days of chemical nitrogenous manures are over. All that will be required to be done to provide nitrogen for the plants will be to water them with a solution of Humogen, and the azotobacter will do the rest. The growth of agricultural knowledge is opening up new lines of thought and practice in all directions, and although the future of manuring as indicated by PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY seems visionary, it is quite within the range of possibility. In these circumstances Humogen seems well worth a trial by West Indian agriculturists.

## AGRICULTURE IN ST. LUCIA.

**G**REAT credit is due to the Agricultural Department of St. Lucia for the practical encouragement that they have given to the development of agriculture in that island. That there is still ample scope for their work in this direction will be realised when it is pointed out that fully one-third of St. Lucia is still covered with forest. It was in 1905, when the Imperial garrison was withdrawn, that the desirability of establishing subsidiary industries became first fully appreciated. Till that year the colony had relied too much on coaling and victualling the garrison for its prosperity, and with the removal of the troops attention was called to the potential wealth of the remarkably fertile soil which the island possesses. Since then substantial progress has been made. This is chiefly noticeable in the cultivation of limes (*Citrus acida* var *medica*) and the preparation of the various products of that tree for the market. Ten years ago there were only thirty acres under limes in St. Lucia, and no lime products were exported. Last year there were no fewer than 2,837 acres devoted to that tree, and though some hundreds of acres only were in bearing, the exports were valued at £6,451. It is evident, then, that St. Lucia will have to be reckoned with as one of our principal lime-producing colonies in the very near future. This very gratifying state of affairs is, as we have already indicated, largely due to the exertions of the Agricultural Department, whose staff, including MR. A. J. BROOKS, the Superintendent, and MR. R. W. MILES and MR. E. SMITH, who work under the ægis of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, distributed during the year 63,712 lime plants, of which 1,700 were given free to purchasers of Crown Lands. There can be no doubt that the establishment of a Government Lime Juice Factory in 1913, during the régime of MR. EDWARD J. CAMERON, afforded a great stimulus to the industry, the further extension of which would appear to be assured. This lime factory, which was a success from the start, has made surprising strides, the number of persons having dealings with it having increased from 96 to 728 during the year. While sugar and cacao are the staples of St. Lucia, the value of the exports of these products having been £46,279 and £38,846 respectively last year, the cultivation of limes can no longer be classed as a minor industry in the island, and it will not be surprising if in years to come it takes the foremost place. The progress of the minor industries, which include cotton, bay oil, and honey, has been less, if in some cases at all, satisfactory. No estate cotton was grown during the year; with the natural supply of bay leaves becoming exhausted, bay oil exports show a decline, and honey production has suffered a check owing, not to disease, but to many apiarists having left the island. In this last-named industry we may hope to see a revival, for it is fairly claimed that lime honey is equal in flavour to the popular logwood honey. For some reason or other—probably it was the old-time reputation for unhealthiness, which has long since been wiped out, coupled with a lack

of the energetic advertising adopted in some other islands—St. Lucia has made a less powerful appeal to monied settlers than Dominica has done. Yet a perusal of the report of the Agricultural Department of the island leaves one with the impression that the openings which it affords for the profitable investment of capital could scarcely be equalled. We are glad to notice that a move is already being made in the direction of attracting young and energetic men to certain of the West Indian islands after the present terrible war, and if—as it should be, and no doubt will be, by the West India Committee—this matter is taken up, the claims of St. Lucia will not be overlooked.

## "HISTORIC JAMAICA."

**W**EST INDIAN literature will shortly be enriched by a volume entitled "Historic Jamaica," to be published by the West India Committee on behalf of the Institute of Jamaica. Its author is MR. FRANK CUNDALL, the gifted Secretary and Librarian of the last-named body, who in the course of its compilation consulted over 1,400 books on the island. The inception of the work is attributable to an article which appeared in these columns in October, 1908, drawing attention to the need for the preservation of historic sites and buildings in the West Indies, which was followed by the appointment of local committees in the various islands and the publication of an official report of great historic value.\* This important publication included a list of such places in Jamaica, prepared with infinite care, parish by parish, by MR. FRANK CUNDALL, who had in the meantime commenced a series of articles on the subject in the CIRCULAR, which was only recently concluded. Many of these will be reproduced in the volume now to be published, which will be copiously illustrated, not only by "half-tones," but also by line engraving from sketches by MRS. LIONEL LEE, whose work has already appeared in earlier books by MR. CUNDALL. It is proposed to publish "Historic Jamaica" at the popular price of five shillings for cloth-bound copies, and it is safe to predict for it a great demand, not only among visitors to Jamaica and all lovers of that island, but also the public generally. It is hoped that the book may serve the double purpose of evoking interest in the history of the colony in the minds of its inhabitants and proving a source of information to visitors, and that it may also be the means of steps being taken to preserve old buildings and other monuments alike from decay and the hand of man.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the undermentioned gifts for the B.W.I.'s.

Three footballs from "Orion" of the *Daily Express*.  
Two footballs from *Sporting Life*.  
43 Woollen shirts, 68 pairs of socks, 19 muffers from Mrs. Moody Stuart.  
A bag of Demerara sugar for the Y.M.C.A. from the West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.

\*Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous No. 84, 1912 [Cd. 6428].



THE BAHAMAS CONTINGENT.



THE "TRANSPORT" LEAVING NASSAU.



THE SEND OFF IN PORT OF SPAIN.



A COMPANY OF THE TRINIDAD MEN.



A SCENE IN GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA.



THE BRITISH GUIANA DETACHMENT SAILS.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the usual monthly meeting of the Executive Committee at 15, Seething Lane, on Thursday, October 14th. The other members present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. E. R. Davson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported that the total membership was 1,523. The following new members were then admitted:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
H.R. Brigadier-General Sir W. H. Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B. (Jamaica)	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell. { Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Storks de Roux (Jamaica)	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. { Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith (Trinidad)	{ Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. { Mr. E. Radcliffe Clarke.
Mr. E. C. B. Ronyun (Nigeria)	{ Hon. A. C. Ponsonby. { Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.
Mr. E. L. Atkinson	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. C. A. Campbell.
Mr. Conrad J. Arthur (Grenada)	{ Mr. P. A. F. Macleod. { Mr. A. Henry B. Gall.
Mr. Arthur Ross (Grenada)	{ Mr. P. A. F. Macleod. { Mr. A. Henry B. Gall.
Mr. R. M. Otway (Grenada)	{ Mr. P. A. F. Macleod. { Mr. A. Henry B. Gall.
Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E. (Dominica)	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell. { Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, M.A.
Mr. F. W. Reeves (St. Vincent)	{ Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P., F.R.S. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. Frank Child (St. Vincent)	{ Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P., F.R.S. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Lady Le Hunt	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell. { Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. R. Gordon	{ Lady Graham Briggs. { Mr. G. Hudson Lyall. { Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mrs. Burdon	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell
Mr. Paul Cressall, Jun. (British Guiana)	{ Sandbach, Tinne & Co. { Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.

A letter was read from the Colonial Office (dated September 25th), stating that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had withdrawn its former offer, and had offered to run the SS. *Danube* and SS. *Magdalena* on a four-weekly service between London and Trinidad, extending the itinerary to Colon if the Government would become responsible for the payment of a fixed sum of not less than £4,000 per voyage, due on the despatch of each steamer.

After discussion, the Committee decided to adhere to its resolution of August 12th pending the receipt of the expression of the views of the colonies on the subject.

The Finance Bill was under consideration, and the Committee decided, in view of the circumstances resulting from the war, not to criticise that measure at this juncture.

## THE WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

The Directors of the West India Association of Glasgow, in their report for the year ended June 30th last, which was adopted at the Annual Meeting on October 6th, express regret that the suggestion to include in the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply a member with a knowledge of the Colonial Sugar Industry was negated. They give a useful summary of the West Indian crop conditions during the year, and express much satisfaction at the sweeping reduction in the cable charges to the various West Indian Colonies, which came into force in October, 1914. The new rates enable freer use to be made of the cable, a boon of considerable importance at the present time, when little dependence can be placed on the mail services. With regard to the latter, they point out that the present itinerary provides an altogether inadequate period between arrivals and departures of mails, especially to the West of Scotland, and is a source of much inconvenience. The outcome of the present negotiations between the Royal Mail Co. and the Postmaster-General is being anxiously watched.

The Directors record with regret the death of Mr. H. T. Henderson, of Messrs. Prentice, Service & Henderson, who was a member of the Association since it was resuscitated in 1904.

The report and accounts having been adopted, the retiring Directors, Messrs. Thomas Prentice, W. N. Armour, George McCalman, and W. Scott Herriot, were unanimously re-elected, and Mr. Robert Thom was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. George Brown. Mr. Humphry Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, and Mr. Thomas Prentice were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Mr. A. H. Donald, of Messrs. McGrigor, Donald & Co., continues to act as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. R. W. Tomlinson as Hon. Secretary.

A donation of £10 was voted to the Sugar Department of the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are connected with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.

## THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

### A Visit to the B.W.I.'s Camp.

*Passed by the Press Censor for publication.*

A representative of the CIRCULAR recently visited Seaford and enjoyed the privilege of being conducted round the North Camp, where the West Indian Contingent lies—or, rather, that part of it which has already arrived in this country—by Colonel A. E. Barchard, the Officer in Command. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the B.W.I.'s (to give the West Indian Battalion the initials from the men's shoulder-straps) are particularly fortunate in having a Commanding Officer with the qualifications possessed by Colonel Barchard. The Colonel knows West Indians inside-out, having only recently given up the command of the West India Regiment, while he has on several occasions been stationed for considerable periods in Jamaica. The little Sussex seaside town on the occasion of the writer's visit was looking quite its best on a perfect autumn morning, being bathed in sunshine, and the weather generally could not have been more propitious for acclimatising the newly-arrived troops from the tropics.

The detachments which have already reached these shores are those from British Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Windward Islands and Barbados, which, with the men from Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, and British Honduras, who should be with us very shortly, will be welded into battalions for active service and for reserve, fully representative of the West Indies as a whole—colonies which some pessimists would have had us believe could never act in unison.

Most of the men were already in the familiar khaki uniform of the British Infantry of the line; but others were still wearing the motley assortment of civilian dress—some with straw hats, and others with "bowlers" or caps in which they arrived. It was evident from their bearing and carriage that those in uniform were fully conscious of the honour of being at last in the service of their King and Country. One company was drawn up on parade, and a finer lot of men could scarcely have been found, taking them as a whole. Their appearance of physical fitness testified to the thoroughness with which the local recruiting committees have carried out their work, and it is safe to predict that very few will be returned as "no good."

Some of the huts were next visited, and the alacrity with which the men, except a few who were deep in the arms of Morpheus (and it requires little short of an earthquake to awaken a West Indian when he is determined to sleep), sprang to attention showed a satisfactory appreciation of the importance of discipline, even in these early days of training. The men have been served out with extra blankets, and it was surprising how little they seemed to feel the cold, though few had ever been out of the tropics before. One lusty Demerarian, asked how he liked his new surroundings, said emphatically that he did not want to go West again, and this

seemed characteristic of all. All were very grateful for what was being done for them, and were duly appreciative of the magnificent "send off" they had received. Those who had been fortunate enough to be tipped a guinea—as the British Guiana men were by the Mayor of Georgetown—were particularly grateful, though one man admitted that it had "gone ever since."

A Chinaman from British Guiana had assumed the duties of cook, in which capacity he was giving every satisfaction, and the cook-house was naturally a favourite place, not only for gastronomic reasons, but also because of its warmth. Still more popular were the huts containing several rows of hot shower-baths, provided by a generous Government, which are being well patronised; and probably the happiest man in the whole camp was the individual detailed to stoke the fire under the boilers, who had shut himself in, and had written in chalk on the door: "No admittance."

At the Officers' mess the writer renewed his acquaintance with Mr. George Challenor, Captain W. H. G. Thorne, and Mr. E. K. Walcott, of Barbados, Captain A. E. ("Bertie") Harragin, Captain E. B. Connel, and Surgeon-Captain A. J. Clarke (son of the Hon. C. P. Clarke, of Barbados) from Trinidad, among others whose names are a household word in West Indian circles. "Jack" Thorne's capabilities had already been recognised by his appointment to be Mess President. The Orderly Room, for which the West Indian Contingent Committee has already furnished some requisites, next received attention, and it is hoped that the discipline of the battalion will be so good that few of our West Indians will have to visit it. Here the writer was introduced to Mr. A. P. J. Hibbert, of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, a capable officer who has been appointed Adjutant of the Battalion.

At the Young Men's Christian Association's Recreation Hut, of the hospitality of which mention has already been made in these columns, the writer was welcomed by Mr. Noah Taylor, the Camp Superintendent, who is already called "Father" by the grateful visitors—a significant indication of his popularity. The hut, which is fully 130 feet long, has a stage at one end for the concert parties which visit it periodically, and a "bar" at the other, where temperance drinks and light refreshments generally are dispensed by lady helpers, and picture postcards, stationery, etc., are sold at very reasonable prices. There were quite fifty or sixty men in the room. Some were playing games and others writing letters, all looking as much at home as if they had used the hut all their lives. Outside men were playing football, on the principle that all work and no play would make even a West Indian a dull boy.

That the B.W.I.'s have a strenuous time before them is fully recognised, and it was with the conviction that the men will render a good account of themselves wherever they may be called upon to serve, that the writer left the Camp after a most interesting and instructive afternoon.

The illustrations which face page 450 in the

present issue hardly call for any description. They are from photographs taken in Nassau, New Providence; Port of Spain, Trinidad; and Georgetown, British Guiana, immediately prior to the departure of the local detachments of the West Indian Contingent.

The uppermost pictures, for which we are indebted to Mr. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, depict the first Bahamas Contingent and their departure from Nassau. The men comprise both white and coloured recruits, and include Government officials, bank employees, spongers, farmers, artisans, and seamen; and left Nassau, New Providence, in the schooner *Faruna*, amid scenes of great enthusiasm, for Jamaica, where they arrived on September 20th. Before their departure they were addressed in inspiring terms by Mr. Allardyce, the Governor, who was accompanied by the chief Government officials. Below are two pictures taken in Trinidad by Mr. Randolph Rust, showing part of the immense crowd which gathered outside Prince's Buildings on September 18th to give a send-off to No. 1 Company, who are shown drawn up under Captain H. J. L. Cavenaugh. The remaining illustrations, which are photographs taken by Mr. J. Lindner, show some men of the British Guiana Detachment under Lieut. R. J. Craig, and the crowd on the stellings seeing off the intercolonial steamer in which they left for Trinidad and England.

**THE CONTINGENT FUND.**

**Satisfactory Progress Recorded.**

As stated in last issue, an appeal for funds has been made by the West Indian Contingent Committee, which has been formed to provide for the welfare and comfort of the men of the West Indian and Bermuda Contingents as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently and of others who may come over from the West Indies to enlist in the new armies. It is pointed out that the West Indian Contingent is drawn chiefly from classes untravelled and unfamiliar with the life of European communities, and that it is hoped, therefore, that they may receive a particularly hospitable welcome. They will in many cases require assistance and advice while in training or on furlough, or when wounded and in hospital, and it will be necessary to make special provision for their accommodation during convalescence after discharge from hospital.

The first list of subscriptions was published in last CIRCULAR. The second list is below.

	£	s.	d.
Harry Berger, Esq. ....	25	0	0
Messrs. G. F. Huggins and Co. ....	25	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. Rippon ....	25	0	0
Woodford Lodge Estates Co., Ltd. ....	25	0	0
Messrs. Lee, Spooner and Co. ....	20	0	0
Messrs. Sandbach, Timne and Co. ....	20	0	0
Messrs. D. Q. Henriques and Co. (Harold L. Q. Henriques) ....	10	10	0
The New Schoonord Sugar Plantation Co., Ltd. ....	10	10	0
Messrs. Sendall and Wade ....	10	10	0
Messrs. Henry White and Co. ....	10	10	0
Col. H. J. Blagrove, C.B. ....	10	0	0
Edward T. Dixon, Esq. ....	10	0	0
Col. E. Moulton-Barrett, C.M.G. ....	10	0	0
Messrs. Nathan and Godfrey, Ltd. ....	10	0	0
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Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G. ....	5	5	0
A. N. Lubbock, Esq. ....	5	5	0
F. Rowstone, Esq. ....	5	5	0
Messrs. Wm. Smith and Co. ....	5	5	0
Messrs. Suter, Hartmann and Rahtjen's Composition Co. Ltd. ....	5	5	0
Hon. Mrs. H. Edwards ....	5	0	0
Mrs. A. Hamilton Wood ....	5	0	0
Leonora, Ltd. ....	5	0	0
John S. de la Mothe, Esq. ....	5	0	0
G. Elliot Sealy, Esq. ....	4	0	0
C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G. ....	3	3	0
Lady Le Hunte ....	3	3	0
Rev. W. W. Jackson, D.D. ....	3	3	0
C. Sandbach Parker, Esq. ....	3	3	0
W. Smith, Esq. ....	3	3	0
Wm. Morrison, Esq. ....	3	0	0
W. Morris Fletcher, Esq. ....	2	2	0
Messrs. Melrose Drover, Ltd., per C. E. Bethell, Esq. ....	2	2	0
R. W. B. Parker, Esq. ....	2	2	0
Lady Sendall ....	2	2	0
Alfred S. Williams, Esq. ....	2	2	0
G. L. Latour, Esq., M.D. ....	2	0	0
O. C. R. Williams, Esq. ....	2	0	0
Sir Gerald W. H. Codrington, Bart. ....	1	1	0
H. Russell Cowell, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Chas. Denny, Esq. ....	1	1	0
A. L. Evelyn, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Gilbert E. A. Grindle, Esq., C.M.G. ....	1	1	0
L. Guggenheim, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Wm. H. Hewitt, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Fred G. Evan Jones, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Col. A. H. Nourse ....	1	1	0
Chas. R. Relph, Esq. ....	1	1	0
F. O. Roach, Esq. ....	1	1	0
The Very Rev. Dean E. Sloman, M.A. ....	1	1	0
M. J. Taurel, Esq. ....	1	1	0
F. H. Watkins, Esq., I.S.O. ....	1	1	0
Mrs. Anna B. Christall ....	1	0	0
Miss Sybil Ward ....	1	0	0
Miss Laura Goffe ....	10	6	
"P. L. P." ....	10	0	

Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Treasurers of the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., cheques being crossed "The Union of London and Smiths' Bank."

**Requisites for the B.W.I.'s.**

The Committee will welcome gifts of the following:—

- Footballs.
- Musical Instruments (such as banjos, mandolines, etc.).
- Games for the Recreation Hut.
- Newspapers for the Reading Room (especially the illustrated and daily and weekly papers and magazines).

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ....	1,121	8	0
Messrs. Thomson Hankey and Co. ....	52	10	0
Messrs. Jas. Nourse, Ltd. ....	52	10	0
C. Czarnikow, Ltd. ....	50	0	0
Messrs. Kleinwort, Sons and Co. ....	50	0	0
The Demerara Co., Ltd. ....	31	10	0
Sir Owen Phillips, K.C.M.G. ....	26	5	0
Messrs. Alston, Arbuthnot and Co. ....	25	0	0

These may, with the exception of the newspapers, be sent to the Hon. Secretary, West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The newspapers may be sent direct to the Reading Room, West Indian Contingent, North Camp, Seaford, Sussex.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

*Passed by the Censor for publication.*

Once again the main interest of the war has shifted. First it centred in the Low Countries, then in the Carpathians. Later on the forcing of the Dardanelles was to be the deciding factor. Now the climax of events may be reached in the Balkans, which has so often been the cockpit in which new eras of history have been opened in blood. As usual, Germany's energy and resolution translate themselves into swift action in striking contrast to the hesitating policy of the Allies. They have not been able to convince the Balkan States that they are in earnest, whereas she has. Her land power has enabled her to force the Russians to fall back from the commanding position they had gained in the Carpathians, while holding the territory she has overrun in the West. Their sea-power has not been used so as, in co-operation with the Anglo-French Expeditionary Force, to deal speedily and effectively with the Turk. In the diplomacy of the past few months it seems to have been turned to no purpose at all. Yet all the Balkan States are debtors to the British Navy—Greece in particular. Just as we allowed Turkey to become the henchman of Germany, so we have allowed Bulgaria, which has simply played with the Allies till the time was ripe for the Central Empires to strike.

That time is now, when, having failed to gain their objective either in the East or the West, the material success of their arms is brilliant enough to impress south-eastern Europe, where both have dreams of dominance. The necessity for opening up communication with Turkey, which is getting short of munitions and supplies, is only part of the enemy's new design. His losses must be causing him anxiety, even if they are no larger than favourable estimates, and in the Ottoman Empire he can raise another half-million of men. Moreover, by making a causeway to Constantinople as a means of reaching Asia Minor and the Persian Gulf, he is threatening the very foundations of the British Empire as well as Russia's dream of a future on the sea. The danger has been plain since May, but instead of backing up our friends, we attempted to win over Bulgaria at their expense. The result is that we have lost every trick in the first game. The thing is, what are we going to do to win the rubber?

An Anglo-French force has landed at Salonika, which is an excellent move. But is it sufficient for its purpose? The blunders of Antwerp and Gallipoli must not be repeated at this late date in the war. . . . The best way to secure Greece's military

co-operation by recognition of the spirit as well as the letter of her treaty with Serbia, which binds each of them to go to the help of the other in case of attack by Bulgaria, is to act promptly and decisively in the Balkans. To despatch an inadequate force is worse than useless. If Serbia, which is fighting like a badger at bay, is to be saved, the Allies must be able to deal with the enemy's offensive in strength.

### Events in the West.

Since the successful surprise attack on the German line, which enabled the British to capture Loos and the key of Lens (Hill 70), the enemy has made violent and persistent counter-attacks. In one of them he re-captured the Hohenzollern Redoubt, one of his fortification mazes, perhaps because the position forms a salient due to the British advance, which put them in possession of part of Hulluch, a village midway on the road between La Bassée and Lens. He has, however lost it again, and suffered badly in what is called the second battle of Loos. Here he delivered an assault which was conceived as a surprise, the final preparations for it having been made with a wood as a screen. But Sir John French, warned by our aviators, took such skilful measures for meeting the Germans that each wave of them as it came on was mown down by the combined fire of our infantry, artillery, and machine guns. The pits, heaps of slag, and natural features of this region afford special facilities for defence, so that just as the British find it difficult to dislodge the Germans, so the Germans will find it difficult to dislodge the British once they are in positions once held by the enemy.

In Artois and Champagne, where the country, being more open, is easier to command, our Allies now hold the entire Vinny crest, and are extending their front on the plateau north of Messiges and on the slopes leading down to the River Dormoise. By the capture of the village and height of Tahure they are well in the German second line. But the problem of the Allies is to follow up swiftly their successful advances, since after each one they have to consolidate their position against him, which takes time. It is now known that his first line is thinly held, but defended with the utmost mechanical skill, particularly in the concealment and placing of machine guns. Unless, then, the whole network of trenches is destroyed, the losses of our men in attack are very heavy. . . .

### On the Eastern Front.

Simultaneously with the Anglo-French offensive in the West, the Russians are launching one of their own in the East. General Ivanoff, who for some weeks has been pushing forward our Ally's line in the South to the discomfiture of the Austrians, has scored a timely success by driving them across the Strypa. The fighting, which lasted several days, only ended when the enemy's last line of trenches were captured, some of them strongly fortified. The result is that the Russians

are putting the German objective, which is the Luminetz-Rovno railway, in their rear, and advancing on the Dniester, with their extreme left close to Roumania.

In the north, the battle for the bridgehead at Dvinsk, which should decide the possession of the line of the Dvina, still continues with unabated fury. Having failed to extend their right wing to envelop the defences of Dvinsk from the East, the Germans are now concentrating their attack along the line of the Poniewitz railway. The Russians, on their side, are developing an offensive on a wide front, and have carried several of the enemy's positions, not only in the Riga sector, but near Vilna.

### The War in Serbia.

Last week we noted that nothing had been heard of General Mackensen for some time. It now transpires that he, with Gallwitz, to whom was entrusted the execution of the chief part of the plan for enveloping the Russian central armies in Eastern Poland, is now in command of the German armies in Serbia. In complete secrecy the main body of his forces has been withdrawn by railway to the new front by way of Southern Hungary. It has crossed the Danube and captured Belgrade, whose situation does not lend itself to defence. The Serbians are falling back, since the front here is too extensive to hold, and there are no lateral communications, which would enable them to make the most of their forces. They have to consider, too, the Bulgarian menace to the Sofia-Nish railway, so that their position is a serious one. In front of them are the Austro-German hosts, on their rear and right flank are the Bulgarians. Serbia's only advantage is that she is operating on interior lines. But though her armies have had time to recuperate, her military resources have been crippled by her plucky fight with Austria-Hungary, which ended so splendidly for her at Valievo. But both the invaders have a superiority over her in numbers, and her territory is too small for manœuvring. It is no wonder, then, that she is looking anxiously to Greece for help, and so far in vain.

### The "Fifth" Arm.

The growing importance of aviation may be gathered from the accounts of the second battle of Loos. The enemy tried to deliver an overwhelming frontal attack at a particular point in order to break the line. But our aeroplanes observed the movement and concentration of troops, and, acting on this information, Sir John French was able so to mass his guns as to forestall the German design. But, valuable as our airmen are as scouts, they are equally valuable in actual battle. Not only do they bombard trains bringing up reinforcements and munitions, but they wreck the stations through which such reserves must pass. Once aviators were merely auxiliary to our army, because they operated in the rear. Now they co-operate with the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and engineers in the firing line. The "fifth arm" has arrived.

### The Campaign in Mesopotamia.

It is difficult to understand why a dark veil of secrecy is kept on the masterly advance of Sir John Nixon's forces in Baghdad. If this nation is made to thrill with pride over South Africa's share in the war, why not over India's? For the importance of the operations in the basin of the Tigris and Euphrates is second only to the importance of the operations in Gallipoli. They have prevented the enemy from establishing himself between us and India; protected the pipe line of the oil-fields; engaged large Turkish armies, which relieved the pressure in Gallipoli, and occupied a vast region of the utmost economic, strategical, and political value. Moreover, Sir John Nixon's men . . . have never made a failure. They are fighting in one of the hottest climates in the world, in a difficult and waterless country; fever is dogging their steps and pests making life almost unbearable; and the conditions are laughing at text-book rules of war. The Turks have made a dogged resistance, and, when possible, adopted the trench warfare so familiar in the West. Nevertheless, Sir John Nixon's army, from the day it established its base at Basra, has steadily forced the enemy from one strong position to another, its latest success being the occupation of Nasariyeh, to reach which it travelled along the course of the Euphrates for a thousand miles. When the history of the campaign comes to be written it will be put in the category of perfect amphibious wars, of which there are not many.

### Air Raid on London.

On the 13th there was a Zeppelin raid on London, which, while it caused less material damage than its immediate predecessor, caused considerable loss of life. Public feeling is beginning to be disturbed at these attacks, which in the aggregate have done a great deal of damage in what is vaguely known as "the Eastern Counties," besides being responsible for 155 killed and 368 injured.

(To be continued.)

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

Business offices connected with the West Indies in which the West India Committee coloured map of those colonies does not hang must be few and far between if one may judge from the sales. Giving as it does the principal railways, sea distances in nautical miles, cables, wireless telegraph stations, coaling stations, and oil stations, all clearly marked, the map is most useful to business men. It has three insets, one showing the routes and distances between Canada and the United States and the West Indies, another a plan of the Panama Canal, and a third showing by diagrams and figures the area and population of the various British West Indian colonies.

The special price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the educational authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.



## SYNTHETIC "RUBBER."

### German Claims to Success.

The present situation as regards synthetic rubber is discussed by Dr. F. W. Heinrichsen in a recent number of the *Zeitschrift des Vereines Deutscher Ingenieure*, and we are indebted to *The India Rubber World* for a summary of the position set forth by him.

In 1909 Dr. Fritz Hofmann and Dr. Carl Coutelle, chemists of the Elberfeld Dye Works, obtained absolutely pure isoprene, and were the first to convert it into rubber by simply heating it in a closed tube separately or in the presence of certain other substances. A sample of this rubber was sent to Harries, who proved chemically with absolute certainty that it actually was rubber. As the method of Hofmann and Coutelle was not then publicly known, Harries took up experiments to transform isoprene into rubber. In a lecture in Vienna in 1910 he reported his observation that it was possible to convert isoprene into rubber by heating in a closed tube in the presence of glacial acetic acid. Harries deserves credit for thus publishing a method which could be repeated by others.

Work in the technical development of the problem was done by numerous individual German and other scientists, by the Elberfeld Dye Works, and by the Baden Aniline & Soda Works. In the original patent specification of the Elberfeld Dye Works the inventors did not confine themselves to the use of isoprene as the basic material, but included the use of a series of hydrocarbons of similar composition and behaviour toward polymerization, namely hydrocarbons with a so-called system of conjugated double bonds, such, for example, as crythrene and dimethylbutane and many other similarly constructed substances.

On account of the differences in the basic material there was a possibility of obtaining a series of different rubbers which naturally differed in their chemical constitution. It was also found that the process of polymerization was capable of various modifications, and that the rubbers obtained by employing different methods with the same basic substance varied among themselves.

It was thus observed independently by Harries and the English investigators, Mathews and Strange, that polymerization in the presence of metallic sodium proceeds at great velocity, and the resulting rubber differs materially in its properties from that produced by mere heating. The chemists of the Baden Aniline & Soda Works found that if polymerization by sodium is carried on in an atmosphere of carbonic acid the results are different. A further process worked out by the same company is based on the use of ozonizers or peroxide as catalyzers.

Thus various rubbers may be obtained differing from each other in their properties according to the nature of the prime materials and the method of polymerization. The following compilation, according to Holt, is a concise resume of a series of such differing rubber-like substances.

#### RUBBERS FROM BUTANES.

Standard rubber (by heating): Easily soluble, elastic and capable of being vulcanised.

Ozonide rubber: Insoluble, strongly inflatable, very elastic, not capable of being vulcanised.

Carbonic acid rubber: not soluble, not inflatable, very elastic, not capable of being vulcanised.

Sodium rubber: Easily soluble, elastic, capable of being vulcanized.

#### RUBBERS FROM ISOPRENE.

Standard rubber: Easily soluble, elastic, capable of being vulcanised.

Ozonide rubber: Soluble only after calendaring, strongly inflatable, elastic, capable of being vulcanised.

Carbonic acid rubber: Insoluble, not inflatable, elastic, capable of being vulcanized.

Sodium rubber: Easily soluble, not elastic, can be vulcanised incompletely and only with difficulty.

#### RUBBERS FROM DIMETHYL BUTANES.

Standard rubber: Easily soluble, not elastic, capable of being vulcanized as hard rubber only.

Ozonide rubber: Soluble only after calendaring, inflatable, not elastic, can be vulcanized as hard rubber only.

Carbonic acid rubber: Insoluble, not inflatable, not elastic, can be vulcanised only with difficulty.

Sodium rubber: Soluble and insoluble modifications, inelastic and incapable of vulcanization.

This possibility of obtaining substances of varying properties by changing the basic materials and the process of polymerization gave rise to the hope of producing at will rubbers with properties adapted to special applications, somewhat as in the dyestuffs industry colours are modified at will. The commercial importance of rubber synthesis depends on the product equalling natural rubber in two respects—price and practical applicability. The price factor depends in the first instance on the manufacturing cost of the hydrocarbons of the isoprene series which are used as the basic materials.

Progress has been made in this field by the Baden Aniline & Soda Works, which starts with certain fractions of petroleum. Other available substances are starch, amyl alcohol, turpentine, acetylene, etc. With all the processes there are such large quantities of by-products that their removal or utilisation would constitute a problem even more difficult than that of the production of the rubber itself. Dr. Heinrichsen does not consider that at present there is a possibility of serious competition of artificial with plantation rubber as regards price.

As regards practical utility, synthetic rubbers seem to lack the durability of natural rubber because the latter, by its vegetable origin, contains a series of associated substances, resins, albumen, etc., which undoubtedly have an influence on its durability, for it is well known that detersinated rubber is much more easily attacked by the oxygen of the air than rubber containing resin. Possibly these associated substances act as protective colloids which reduce the vulnerability of the pure substance.

A further reason why synthetic rubbers are inferior to natural rubber in mechanical properties is that the former are not uniform substances but mixtures. According to recent investigations of Stemmig, in the oxygen splitting of synthetic rubbers, there appears in addition to Coulinic acid and Coulinic aldehyde, which, according to Harries, corre-

spond to natural rubber, resinous acid and acetyl-acetone.

The two last mentioned substances indicate that in the polymerization of isoprene, in addition to the 1,5-dimethylcyclooctanes, a smaller amount (20 per cent.) of the 1,6 compound must have been formed by abnormal condensation, which, upon being split by means of ozone, furnishes the two components mentioned. The latter have never been found in natural rubber. Until possible to arrange the conditions of polymerization so that the synthetic rubbers will constitute uniform compounds, it is not to be expected that synthetic rubbers will equal rubber in its useful properties.

For the information of our non-technical readers, it may be mentioned that isoprene is a product which can be obtained by the destruction of turpentine by heat, and that butane is a member of a group of paraffin bodies. Polymerism may be defined as the relation between bodies which possess the same percentage composition, but which differ in the construction of their molecules.

### AT WESTMINSTER.

#### The Excess Profits Tax.

Replying to Mr. Grant, who asked whether, as agriculture is to be exempted from the operation of the Excess Profits Tax, all produce of the earth, such as rubber, oil, metals, and sugar, would be included in the term "agriculture," Mr. McKenna said that all companies engaged in carrying on business abroad and liable to British Income Tax would come within the scope of the Excess Profits Tax.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society recently forwarded, through the West India Committee, a number of cases of banana figs to the Grand Fleet and our soldiers in the trenches. The letters of acknowledgment, extracts from which are given below, show how much they were appreciated. Thus Mr. G. H. Mayhew, of the Honourable Artillery Company, wrote from "somewhere in France" :—

"I am pleased to inform you that the banana figs that the Jamaica Agricultural Society so kindly sent us were in excellent condition, and were very much liked by the men of the battalion. I am instructed by the Officer Commanding to tender you our grateful thanks."

Mr. P. Webber wrote :—

"Banana figs were very much appreciated by the men of the London Irish Rifles, and I beg to tender thanks for same on their behalf."

Lieut.-Col. P. C. Carr, of the 11th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, wrote :—

"I am pleased to be afforded an opportunity of acknowledging with thanks the receipt of banana figs for the men of my battalion so kindly forwarded from Jamaica. These were highly appreciated, as was also the patriotic spirit prompting the gift."

Rear-Admiral Francis Miller, of H.M.S. *Cyclops*, said :—

"May I say how very much the gift of banana figs from Jamaica has been appreciated by the officers and men? They desire to express their thanks to the donors for the most acceptable form of present, and for the kind thoughts which prompted its despatch. The fruit arrived in excellent condition."

## HOOKWORM DISEASE.

### Measures for its Eradication in Grenada.

Reference was made in a recent CIRCULAR\* to Dr. E. S. Marshall's report on the prevalence of hookworm disease in Antigua, and to the steps which it was proposed to adopt for ridding the island of that enervating disease.

In this connection it is of interest to note that admirable progress has been made with the work of the International Health Commission in its campaign against ankylostomiasis, as the disease is called, in Grenada. It was in August, 1914, shortly after the arrival of Dr. Angus Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., who was selected by the Secretary of State to be the medical officer in charge. In his report in the Blue-book of the colony for 1914-15, Mr. Herbert Ferguson, the Colonial Secretary, states that as a preliminary measure interest in the scheme was stimulated by lectures given at each school in the island, and in Carriacou, and this was followed by regular periodical visits for treatment of sufferers at centres in each part of the island. Mr. Macdonald's efforts in this direction have resulted in the hearty co-operation of the people, and their voluntary acquiescence has made it possible to get into touch with every individual in the areas under operation.

Dissemination of information in connection with the prevention of hookworm infection is being continued by means of printed leaflets, by lantern lectures and addresses illustrating the causes, treatment, and prevention of the disease, and by courses of instruction in general sanitation. By these means the interest and enthusiasm so necessary to the effective eradication of the disease are being kept sustained. From the fact that patients come to the head office from every parish in the island it is clear that

#### a distinct dread of the disease

has arisen amongst the people. Signs of enlightened views on sanitation are evident in the general efforts of the people throughout the districts operated and in other districts to construct satisfactory closets. The following up of the work of the International Health Commission by maintaining the areas dealt with in a satisfactory sanitary state has been engaging the attention of the local advisory committee, and a report on "Sanitary Necessities" is at present under consideration by the Government.

On the advice of Dr. Howard, Medical Director of the International Health Commission for the West Indies, the intensive system of working is now being adopted, and the progress of the work up to 31st March, 1915, may be seen from the following figures :—

At 31st March, 1915.	
Persons examined	3,770
Persons infected with hookworm	4,254
Persons treated	6,014
Persons cured	1,085
Persons under treatment	4,929

\* THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 438, July 13th, 1915.

Infection found.		
Ankylostoma hookworm	... ..	60 per cent.
Ascaris (Round Worm)	... ..	80 "
Trichurus (Whip Worm)	... ..	75 "
All intestinal parasites	... ..	95 "

The evidence obtained up to the present goes to show that all ages are infected, but that infection is uncommon under ten years and rare under five; that infection varies widely between different districts, due chiefly to differences of soil, cultivation, and perhaps of water supply; and that from casual blood examination it is discovered that malaria is widely prevalent in the island, and is responsible for much morbidity. A special report on the comparative debilitating influence of the ankylostome and the malaria parasite is being prepared by the Medical Officer in Charge. As there is an entire absence of accurate statistics in regard to actual malaria infection, the report should prove of great use to the Government in their measures for improving the health conditions of the island.

## THE GENESIS OF THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

We learn from a perusal of the "Calendar of State Papers; America and the West Indies, 1702-3," that the first organized attempt to establish a mail service with the West Indies, and practically the first with any British Colony, was inaugurated in October, 1702, just after poor Benbow had had his fatal encounter with Du Casse.

It is easier for us to-day than it would have been fifteen months ago to realize the difficulties which beset the enterprise. The war of the Spanish Succession had recently begun and the risk of capture had to be guarded against as far as possible, as well as the dangers of storm and hurricane.

At a meeting of the Assembly at Barbados in December, 1702, a letter was read from E. Dummer, dated from Portsmouth on the 12th of October, 1702, in which he says: "H.M. having been pleased to countenance my proposal for a correspondence to the Island Plantations, etc., you will apprehend by the enclosed print that there are four [vessels], which are designed to succeed each other monthly, that their motions are determined to be very quick, because thereon depends the chief fruit that is to be reaped," and he recommends to their care the Captain "of this the first vessel that begins the intended correspondence."

Nothing is to be learnt of Dummer beyond what one gathers from his letters. Most of his communications are dated from Coleman Street, London. He was probably related to Jeremiah Dummer of Boston, who at that time was a ship owner and one of the Justices of the Inferior Court of the County of Suffolk, New England, and published a "Defence of the New England Charters."

On the 25th of January, 1703, the Council of Trade and Plantations ordered it to be recommended to the Postmaster-General that letters to Governor Codrington and the President and Council of Barbados be sent forward by "one of Mr. Dummer's packet-boats supposed to be now at Falmouth." This was possibly intended to refer to the *Bridgman* sloop which made the initial journey for Dummer's little fleet, but she did not reach Falmouth till the end of February, her itinerary being as follows:—

Sailed from :	Arrived :
The Needles, Oct. 22	Barbados, Nov. 18.
Barbados, Nov. 20	Antigua, Nov. 24.
Antigua, Nov. 26	Monserrat, Nov. 27.
Monserrat, Nov. 28	Nevis, Nov. 28.
Nevis, Nov. 29	St. Christophers, Nov. 29
St. Christophers, Dec. 1	Jamaica, Dec. 6.
Jamaica, Dec. 15	Falmouth, Feb. 2.

Dummer, in submitting this list of dates to the Council of Trade and Plantations, states:—

"The experience of time is three months and 13 days, that but for some interruption at Jamaica and a little difficulty with a privateer of Pettit Guavas in the Narrow of the Windward Passage, he believes he had made his voyage 12 days sooner. He has not lost a man. He was very diligently despatched at all the Islands, save at Jamaica, where he was to clean, he spent more time than was allowed him, which was accidental, however the alacrity of the people at all the Islands in assisting his despatches according to his orders is a great demonstration of their satisfaction in this service, for though his motion was so quick, yet he brought home above 1,500 private letters, and the Dutch despatches from Currassoa."

In the matter at all events of priority of mail service, New York must be content to play second fiddle to the West Indies. In February, 1703, a proposal was made by Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys to the Queen that he should establish a packet boat service between New York and the Isle of Wight on the lines of "Mr. Dummer's packets," whereby a correspondence with those parts would be carried on during the war "without charge to your Majesty." He proposed to have two vessels, one of which was to be mounted with 12 guns and have 40 men; the other with 8 guns and thirty men. The stay at New York was to be 30 days. The charge was to be £350 per month of thirteen months in the year.

On March 13th, 1703-4, Dummer sent an extract from the journal of the master of his sloop to the Earl of Nottingham: "Arr. Jamaica 29 [January]. Port Royal burnt, all but the Castle."

By March, 1703, the Council of Trade and Plantations had evidently acquired confidence in Dummer's packet-boats, for they wrote to Col. Haudasayd, the Governor of Jamaica: "And whereas by one of H.M. said instructions, you are directed to send a vessel express to Europe with information of your success therein, we judge it may suffice that you take the first opportunity of Mr. Dummer's packet-boat to give H.M. information of that matter."

In June, Dummer submitted the time-tables of his four sloops, and he proudly says: "Considering the distance run and the accidents of all kinds attending a navigation of this nature, their despatches have been wonderful uniforme and within the time

I designed them." The times for the round-trip, as we now call it, were:—

	Days in Port.	Days at Sea.
<i>Bridgman</i> .. .. .	17	88½
<i>Mansbridge</i> .. .. .	12	81½
<i>King William Sloop</i> ..	12	94

The detailed timetable of one, the *Bridgman*, being as follows:—

Days stayed in Port.		Came to	Days at Sea.
Sailed from		Barbadoes, 18 Nov. foll.	28
ye Needles, 21 Oct., 1702.		Antegoa, 24 ..	3
3 Barbadoes, 21 Nov., ..		Mountserrat, 26 ..	1
1 Antegoa, 25 .. .. .		Nevis 28 .. .. .	1
1 Mountserat, 27 .. ..		St. Xtophers, 29 ..	4
1 Nevis 29 .. .. .		Jamaica, 6 Dec	6
2 St. Xtophers 1 Xher, ..		Falmouth, 2 Feb.	49
9 Jamaica 15 .. .. .			85½

### The Risk of Capture.

We get some idea of the dangers from capture which the sloop encountered from a letter which one William Burt wrote to Dummer from Nevis in June: "As for the time of stay at each place, I perceive all people are agreed it's sufficient, except this place, which if it was made equal with Antegoa, it would be an advantage to the inhabitants; here's as much trade as they have there, and will require as much time to correspond, tho' in a little time if our coast is not better guarded with some ships, we shall have little occasion of correspondence, for since the Fleet went to Jamaica, the French from Martinico and Guardaloupe have fitted out 18 sail of privateers chiefly man'd by their mean planters that would otherwise starve. They are so thick amongst these Islands, that we can't sail from Island to Island but with more hazard than between England and this place; hardly a vessel in 3 escapes. About 3 weeks past a ship called the *Rubey* from London and Ireland bound to this place with 1,200 barrels of beef and other goods was taken; about 14 days past one *Bennett* from Bristol, bound here, was also taken; eight days past two ships and a brigantine laden with provision and lumber from New England bound to Antegoa taken by a sloop in an hour's time, and several other vessels that we have not yet a particular account of, so that everything is risen to extravagant prices, staves and boards at 14l. a thousand, no cask to put sugar in or vessels to carry it away, which makes it of no value amongst us, freight at 14s. a hundred. Here are some vessels laden with sugar and durst not stir for fear of the privateers. About 14 days past a privateer cut a brigantine out of the Road at St. Christopher's laden with sugar ready to sail belonging to one Richard Clayton, done at seven of the clock in the morning, you may guess how sawcey they are grown. One 4th rate, one 5th, two sixth would secure our trade and starve them."

Dummer gave his masters strict injunction that they were not to do any privateering, and he announced to the Earl of Nottingham, the Secretary of State, his intention of dismissing a master who had "been foule of a French vessel laden with salt for Newfoundland and taken her."

In September he reported to Nottingham the re-

sult of one year's "holding correspondence with the Islands in the West Indies by four vessels." He says: "In my original proposition I allowed 95 days besides the time allotted to be spent at each Island, so it appeareth that every boat hath performed their course in less time both winter and summer than I allowed. It is represented from all the Islands to augment the time of stay a little beyond what it is. I know not whether your Lordship will think fit to do it. Proposes to stay 24 hours more at Barbados, 18 at Antegoa, 12 at Mountserat, 12 at Nevis, 12 at St. Christophers, and 5 days and nights more at Jamaica. I am of opinion that the addition of this 8½ days, to make the whole 19½ among the Islands, will not be detrimental to the speed required of them, provided your Lordship shall give orders that the Masters of these vessels shall deliver the Mail on board upon firing a gun to the Chief Officer residing at the Port where he shall arrive, and that they shall not be obliged to carry the mails or other packets 8 or 10 miles into the country, and to attend especially at Jamaica two or three times at the Governor's remote residence for orders, by which means he cannot attend the cleaning and watering of his vessel, nor keep his men together, nor despatch the most necessary affairs for his voyage home, and that no Capt. be commanded to go out of his way or stay longer at any of the Islands than the allotted time. I beg that these things be positive, for they are forbidden to carry out or bring home any goods whatever, but only passengers, because they shall lye under no temptation on that score. There was nothing I took more care to inculcate into the minds of these Masters than that they should make all possible dispatch, and avoid both friends and encyns at sea, by default of which all the loss has happened, and altho' the last boat be come safe to port, nevertheless the Captain having assaulted, taken and exchanged men with the enemy, hath acted contrary to his orders, therefore I have dismissed him, and supplied another in his room."

His instructions to his Captains permitted them "to carry passengers from one Island to another, at tariffs ranging from 2l. 10s. from Barbados to Antegoa, 3l. from Barbados to Jamaica, 4l. from the Leeward Islands to Jamaica, and 12 pounds from any of the Islands home to England," which, even when the difference in the value of money is taken into account, was not dear.

In November he reports the time taken by the following sloops:—

Sloop's name.	Days spent.
<i>Bridgman</i> .. .. .	105
<i>Mansbridge</i> .. .. .	92
<i>King William</i> .. .. .	107
<i>Bridgman</i> .. .. .	114
<i>Mansbridge</i> .. .. .	100
<i>King William</i> .. .. .	100
<i>Prince</i> .. .. .	103

That this regular and trustworthy and not slow service was of great value one can realise when one reads Handasyd's complaint that letters which he had written to the Council of Trade and Plantations

had not been received, and that his own commission as Lieutenant-Governor took six months to reach him by the pre-Dummer methods.

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*In the preceding issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we have given the names of some of those closely connected with the West Indies who are serving their country at the present time. The Editor hopes that readers will help towards making the list, which it is proposed to publish eventually in a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below:*

A'Court, Captain L. W. D., Antigua Defence Force.  
 Agar, Lieut. A. K. (of Dominica, brother of Mr. E. A. Agar), Army Service Corps.  
 Astwood, 2nd Lieut. Stuart (son of Mr. E. W. Astwood).  
 Austin, 2nd Lieut. J. P. Bruce (son of Mr. G. Bruce Austin of Port of Spain, Trinidad), Royal Field Artillery.  
 Clarke, Private A. R. (of Kingston, Jamaica), 2nd Signal Corps, Canadian Contingent.  
 Clegborn, 2nd Lieut. W. (eldest son of the Rev. R. Clegborn, Baptist Minister, British Honduras), Scottish Horse. *At the Dardanelles.*  
 Crawley, Captain C. G. G. (son-in-law of Rev. James Luke, Coleyville, Jamaica), Royal Marine Artillery.  
 Darby, Private Hugh H. (son of Mr. S. H. Darby, of Kingston, Jamaica), 16th Lancers.  
 Dyett, Lieut. J. Elderfield, Antigua Defence Force.  
 Glanville, Captain H. F. (of the West India Regiment), Flight Commander, Royal Flying Corps.  
 Hart, Surgeon Harry (of Jamaica), H.M.S. *Marlborough*.  
 Hollbrook, Lieut. W. J. (of St. Catherine, Jamaica), 9th Batt. Bedford Regiment.  
 Hutchings, Private Harry H. (son of Mr. Hugh H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner Turks and Caicos Islands), 2nd Division 1st County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex Hussars).  
 Ledeatt, Major W., Officer Commanding Antigua Defence Force.  
 McDonald, Captain W., Antigua Defence Force.  
 Maxwell, 2nd Lieut. M. T. (son of Sir Frederic Maxwell, Kt., Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands), Special Reserve of Officers, Royal Field Artillery.  
 Mole, R. R. (youngest son of Mr. R. R. Mole, Editor and Proprietor of *The Mirror*, Trinidad), 3/6th Batt. King's Liverpool Rifles.  
 Murray, 2nd Lieut. George L. (of Tobago), 30th (Reserve) Batt. Royal Fusiliers.  
 Richardson, Quartermaster-Sergeant W. G., Antigua Defence Force.  
 Roden, Sergeant-Major J. J., Antigua Defence Force.  
 Rouse, Private E. R. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Motor Transport, Army Service Corps.  
 Sanginetti, Private L. St. J. (of Kingston, Jamaica), 4/3rd Batt. Royal Fusiliers.  
 Sanginetti, Captain N. R. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Engineers.  
 Usher, Private Herman (son of Hon. A. R. Usher, M.L.C. British Honduras), late of the British Honduras Defence Force, now in Kitchener's Army.  
 Vernon, Private R. H. (formerly Manager of the Spring Hill Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica), Transport Section, The Royal Fusiliers.  
 Ward, Trooper R. (of Jamaica), 2nd Batt. Honourable Artillery Company.  
 Warnford, Lieut. R. A. L., Antigua Defence Force.  
 Williams, Nurse Evelyn (daughter of the Hon. J. R. Williams, Director of Education, Jamaica), Oldmay Hospital, Paignton, Devon.

Woods, Staff Nurse Muriel (daughter of Mr. P. S. Woods, Editor of *The Clarion*, British Honduras), Bethnal Green Military Hospital.

### Killed in Action.

CAPTAIN F. W. TOWNEND, who has been killed in action in France, was the son of Mr. Arthur Townend, J.P., of Devonside, Trelawney, Jamaica.

SECOND LIEUTENANT MEREDYTH OWEN, who has, we regret to say, been killed in action in France, was the younger son of Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.R., Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the West Indies. He was on the Stage when war broke out, and, in spite of the fact that he suffered from a weak heart, had made a name for himself as a dancer. At the outbreak of war he set a good example to his profession to serve his King and Country. He joined the London Scottish, from which he was transferred to a Second Lieutenantcy in the 9th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment. He was twenty-four years old at the time of his death.

LIEUTENANT LESLIE WINGFIELD SWEET-ESCOTT, of the 5th Battalion Oxford and Buckingham Light Infantry, who, we regret to state, was killed in action in France on September 25th, was the youngest son of Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Leeward Islands, at present Governor of Fiji.

SECOND LIEUTENANT G. G. W. LEARY, of the 10th Battalion Gloucester Regiment, who was killed recently, was the son of Dr. E. G. Leary, of Alfreton, Derbyshire, and late of the British Guiana Medical Service.

LIEUTENANT R. M. FORBES ROSS, of the 3rd King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, who was killed in action in France, was the son of Dr. F. W. Forbes Ross, of Jamaica, and grandson of the late Sir David Palmer Ross, formerly Surgeon-General of British Guiana.

### Died of Wounds.

PRIVATE CYRIL C. HENDERSON, of the 9th Batt. Highland Light Infantry (Glasgow Highlanders), who died of wounds on September 28th at Boulogne, was the eldest son of the late Mr. T. R. Henderson, County Inspector, British Guiana Police.

### Wounded.

Bindley, Lieut. H. D. (son of the Venerable Archdeacon T. H. Bindley), of the 75th Field Company Royal Engineers, was wounded in the chest on October 4th, and is now in an Officers' Hospital, 6th Field Ambulance, in France.

Walseley, 2nd Lieut. W. B. (son of Mr. W. A. Walseley, late of Demerara), Royal Field Artillery, has been wounded at the front.

Ritchie, 2nd Lieut. Neil Methuen (second son of Mr. D. Ritchie, late of Aurora, British Guiana), 3rd Batt. Black Watch, has been wounded at the front.

### Sick.

Walcott, Lieut. F. S. (son of Mr. W. H. Walcott, of Barbados), Royal Army Medical Corps, returned from the Mediterranean suffering from dysentery and paratyphoid, but is now convalescent at Osborne, Isle of Wight.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Greene, Lieut. F. C. B. (son of the late Inspector Fred E. Greene, of British Guiana Police Force), late private in H.A.C., now Railway Transport Officer.

Hearme, M. V. (late of the Education Office, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Fusiliers.

Linton, Cyril A., whom it was stated in last CIRCULAR, died of wounds on August 11th, was the son of Rev. Linton, of St. Catherine, Jamaica, and not of Mr. Arthur Linton, of St. Andrews, Jamaica.

Maxwell, Lieut. F. M. (son of Sir Frederic Maxwell, Kt., Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands), City of London Yeomanry.

McGrath, Lieut. D. F. (son of the Hon. George McGrath, Custos of St. Catherine, Jamaica), Second in Command of H.M.S. Torpedo Destroyer *Mastiff*.

Melhado, 2nd Lieut. B. (son of Hon. Carlos Melhado, C.M.G., M.I.C., of Belize), late 2nd Lieut. in the British Honduras Defence Force, now in Army Service Corps.

Sanguinetti, Midshipman Neville (of Kingston, Jamaica), R.N.R., H.M.S. *Marlborough*.

Solly, 2nd Lieut. H. (of Jamaica), Middlesex Regiment.

Street, Lieut. N. W. (nephew of Mr. A. T. Hammond) 13th Yorkshire and Lancaster Regiment.

Street, Sergeant A. M. (nephew of Mr. A. T. Hammond), 17th (Service) Batt. Kitchener's Army.

Street, Sergeant P. R. (nephew of Mr. A. T. Hammond), 17th (Service) Batt. Kitchener's Army.

Street, E. R. (nephew of Mr. A. T. Hammond), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.

Usher, Private R. S. P. (eldest son of Mr. John P. Usher, of Belize), late 2nd Lieut. in British Honduras Defence Force, now Artists' Rifles. *At the Front*.

Walpole, Captain J. R. (son of Sir Charles Walpole, formerly Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands).

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY is obtaining successful results with the use of bacterised peat as a manure. He lately exhibited a box of potatoes grown in ordinary moss watered with an extraction of peat which had been treated with his bacterial process. This discovery promises to place the power of providing vegetable supplies with every householder who can obtain the necessary light and air. Drawing-room windows can be made the medium for the growth of cabbages, peas can flourish on the first floor back, and an extensive potato cultivation adorn the roof.

\* \* \*

BUT, seriously speaking, there is that in Professor Bottomley's bacterized peat which suggests a revolution in our manuring principles. Instead of the application of large quantities of chemical manures which require the vital processes of the soil and plant to be formed into a suitable plant food, the food elements necessary to the essential bacteria soil will be supplied in a ready and assimilable form, and in small quantities. This is understandable as regards the nitrogenous bodies required for the nutrition of the plant, but the question of potash and phosphates is still not answered by Professor Bottomley, and it would be interesting to know if Professor Bottomley's peat extract contains these, or whether the potatoes in question adapted themselves to war conditions, and did without them.

\* \* \*

VIRGIN soil, says B. F. S. in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, produces the best quality of tobacco. The ground should be ploughed deep, at the beginning of the rainy season, and sowed with sunn hemp or some other green manure crop, to be turned under just prior to the preparation of the land for transplanting the tobacco. The last ploughing should be only moderately deep as it is better to leave the subsoil in a firm condition. The ground should then be manured broadcast. The manure should be thoroughly mixed with the surface soil by ploughing or harrowing, and the ground put in a well pulverised condition before transplanting.

\* \* \*

ASSUMING that sturdy plants have been secured from the nursery, it is not necessary to shade the plants if transplanting is done before the season when the sun gets extremely hot. The transplanting is best done late in the afternoon, and care should be taken not to double back the roots of the seedlings in the operation of transplanting. A shallow hole should be made by the side of the plant and filled with water, and as soon as the water has settled in the hole, the earth should be lightly replaced. By this method it is only necessary to water the young plants once every three or four days. The plants may wither slightly when they are set out, but so long as the stems do not become shrivelled, the plant is not harmed.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. FRED L. MYERS.

Mr. Fred L. Myers died in New York on the evening of October 5th.

Mr. Myers, the news of whose death will have been received with regret in Jamaica, was a prominent merchant in that island, and his firm, Fred L. Myers and Son, is as well known in the Maritime Provinces as it was in Jamaica, which is saying a good deal. Mr. Myers was married to Miss Fleurette de Cordova, and leaves three sons.

### MR. A. E. BOLAND.

Mr. Anthony E. Boland died at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on September 16th.

Mr. Boland was a pharmaceutical chemist who was much respected as a business man of great integrity. He was the owner of a drug store in Port of Spain. He was elected a member of the West India Committee on July 6th, 1905.

### MR. JAMES WILSON (Tertius).

News has been received by cable of the death in Trinidad of Mr. James Wilson (Tertius).

"Tertius Wilson," as he was always called, was deservedly one of the most popular men in Trinidad, and many friends in this country had been looking forward to his arrival over here as "second in command" of the Merchants' Contingent of recruits. He started his business career with the firm of Wilson, Son and Co., and was later admitted into partnership by Hon. George Goodwille, of Caledonia House, whose partnership with the late Mr. B. H. Stephens had only recently been terminated. When, shortly before the death of Mr. Goodwille, that firm came to an end he embarked upon business on his own account. He had been a member of the West India Committee since 1903.

### MR. CHARLES WILSON.

Mr. Charles Wilson died at his residence, 11, Henry Road, Finsbury Park, N., on October 7th.

Mr. Wilson was for many years the London representative of the Mirrlees Watson Company, Ltd., the well-known sugar machinery engineers. He gained a knowledge of sugar factory work in Mauritius, and had visited many sugar producing countries. A member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club, he was for many years one of the most regular attendants at the fortnightly dinners of the latter body. Gifted with a keen sense of humour and a genial temperament, he was very popular among the members.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

The English Best (*sic*) Sugar Pioneer Association is the title given by a contemporary to a sugar beet growing concern. To this we must demur on the grounds that as regards their respective merits cane has beaten beet.

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MR. E. A. DE PASS has received the following letter from the King, personally signed by His Majesty:—

Buckingham Palace,  
5th October, 1915.

It is a matter of sincere regret to me that the death of Lieutenant Frank Alexander de Pass deprived me of the pride of personally conferring upon him the Victoria Cross, the greatest of all Military Distinctions.

GEORGE R. AND I.

In a paper which he read before the Institute of Petroleum Technologists, Professor Cadman gave the following table showing the growth in output of Trinidad petroleum in relation to feet drilled and number of wells from 1908 to 1914:—

Year.	Output in Imperial gallons.	Feet drilled.	No. of wells.
1908	5,900	3,758	4
1909	2,000,000	5,927	6
1910	5,000,000	7,321	7
1911	9,985,740	14,485	14
1912	15,288,162	40,418	46
1913	17,626,563	42,552	44
1914	22,523,660	41,933	41
Total	72,430,625	156,394	162

THE unfortunate position of Mr. S. Wolffsohn, a respected member of the Legislative Council of British Honduras, was referred to more than once in these columns when we were urging the desirability of the adoption of legislation to provide for Imperial Naturalisation. In the colony he was a British citizen; elsewhere he had no nationality whatever. We are now glad to learn that, under the British Nationality Act, which came into force on January 1st last, he has been granted full rights of British citizenship throughout the Empire. Mr. Wolffsohn is the recipient of the first certificate of Imperial Naturalisation issued in the colony.

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MR. J. R. BOVELL, F.C.S., F.L.S., has resigned the position of head of the Department of Agriculture in Barbados to take up that of Agricultural Superintendent of the sugar estates of Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. in British Guiana. Mr. Bovell's name is intimately associated with the subject of seedling canes, as it was he who, with Professor Harrison, now Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture in British Guiana, re-discovered the power of propagating canes from seed. It will be a great source of gratification to Professor Harrison once more to be associated with

Mr. Bovell in the interesting subject of scientific sugar cane cultivation.

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MR. ARTHUR MAHAFFY, Administrator of Dominica, has written to Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, informing him that almost every member in the Government service in the Presidency has agreed to give one day's pay per month for the next six months to help the distressed Belgians. The great majority of the subscribers are in receipt of only £8 to £10 per annum, which makes their contribution all the more creditable. Mr. A. Green, a citizen of the United States and a plantation owner in the island has also contributed £50. It is hoped that for the next five months the monthly contribution from the local Civil Service of this island will be at least £35.

\* \* \*

IN view of the high prices now being paid for sugar by consumers in this country as a result of our dependence on European countries, especially Germany and Austria, for the bulk of our supplies of sugar in the past, the question of extending Great Britain's sources of supply within the Empire is, says the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, bound to receive attention before long. "The fact that we import sugar to the value of over £20,000,000 a year from foreign countries, and in normal times have imported less than £1,000,000 worth from British Possessions, is probably sufficient to prevent the casual observer from contemplating such a possibility as the whole of our requirements being produced within the Empire. That such is perfectly possible appears from the results of enquiries which have been made in all the sugar-producing countries of the Empire by the West India Committee."

THE present is a favourable opportunity for joining the West India Committee. The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or 5s per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

"The Cane Sugar Factory," by Frederick I. Scard, is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 1s. Post free 1s. 3d.

**THE LONDON LETTER.**

THE recruiting campaign is entering upon a new phase under the direction of Lord Derby. Though an ardent supporter of National Service, he has pledged himself to make an earnest endeavour to secure recruits—30,000 a week are needed—by the voluntary system. The young white men who are coming over from Trinidad and Tobago at the expense of a Committee of professional and business men will afford a good example to "slackers." Mr. G. F. Huggins, of Port of Spain, is now in London making arrangements for their reception with the co-operation of the West India Committee, and it is possible that they may be met by one of the recruiting bands and march through the City. A proposal is also afoot for subjecting them to the cinematograph.

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LONDON has again been "Zepped." The visitation took place on October 13th, just a month after the previous raid. As full an account of the eventful night as may be given is published in the newspapers of the 18th, and it will be noted that the public took matters even more calmly than they did before. The desirability of dispensing altogether with evening performances at the theatres in favour of matinées has been under consideration; but the public, to whom the managers left the decision, have shown their preference for the former by visiting the play-houses much as usual. They have no fear of air raids, and it is only the difficulty of getting home after the theatres that thins the higher-priced parts of the houses.

WE have recently enjoyed many "Days" in London on which the public has gladly been importuned by the fair sellers of flags of our Allies for the benefit of their sick and wounded. The amounts raised on these occasions has been considerable, running into thousands of pounds. But it is expected that all records will be eclipsed on "Our Day," which has been fixed for October 21st, the anniversary of our greatest naval victory, and is being widely advertised. This particular "Day" is being organised by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which are doing wonderful work, and the proceeds will be devoted to our wounded from home and overseas at the front.

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SOME idea of what these Societies have done and are doing may be gained when it is stated that they now have 1,000 motor ambulances, cars, lorries, etc., at work, requiring £200,000 for upkeep alone. They have sent out 5,000 surgeons, nurses, stretcher bearers, orderlies and drivers, and have distributed £140,000 worth of hospital stores, and £220,000 of gifts for the wounded, and no fewer than 1,850,000 articles of clothing. In view of these figures, the band of street collectors who are being

marshalled by Miss May Beeman, of 10, West Bolton Gardens, should have their work cut out for them to carry their gold and silver to the depots.

\* \* \*

SCARCELY a day passes without some accident resulting from the darkened streets. Among the latest victims has been Miss Martha Matthews, a native of St. Vincent, who has been run over by a taxi driver, alleged to have been drunk. Miss Matthews had been for over sixty years in the family of Mr. C. A. Philip, a Director of the West Indian Produce Association, whose forebears resided in St. Kitts. She was nurse for forty years and companion to Mr. Philip's sisters for twenty years. She was eighty-three years old, and afforded a notable example of the faithful services which many West Indians render.

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THE Church in Jamaica is fortunate in having so many helpers in this country, a circumstance which is, we believe, due to the energies of the London Jamaica Church Aid Association, with which the name of Miss Klein is prominently identified. Through the means of Drawing Room Meetings held under the auspices of that body, it has benefited greatly in recent years. One of the most successful of these was held at the invitation of the Bishop of Bristol on October 11th at the Palace, Redland Green. The Bishop, welcoming the Rev. J. J. Whitehouse, who had spent seven and a half years in Jamaica, said that they must think of the Church in Jamaica not only as a Colonial church, but also as a mission church, for there was mission work going on in Jamaica amongst the coloured people and coolies.

MR. WHITEHOUSE enunciated that the theory that the reason why the churches in Jamaica were always full was partly because the churches were a social meeting place for the people. There were no counter-attractions on a Sunday and the people liked to assemble together. He went on to say that the people recognised their obligation to the church, and that obligation touched their pockets. A church member in Jamaica paid 13s. a year. That was over and above the collections, and—according to his experience—church collections were larger in Jamaica than they were in this country.

During the year to date 100 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	... 13	Anguilla	... .. 1
British Guiana	... 11	Bahamas	... .. 1
Barbados	... 10	British Honduras	... .. 1
Jamaica	... 7	Nevis	... .. 1
Tobago	... 6	Nigeria	... .. 1
St. Vincent	... 6	Colombia	... .. 1
Grenada	... 6	Uganda	... .. 1
Montserrat	... 5	Venezuela	... .. 1
Antigua	... 4	London	... .. 13
St. Kitts	... 3	Country	... .. 5
Dominica	... 3		



## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

By degrees correspondents are becoming accustomed to the vagaries of the mail service, and are finding that by answering letters, and posting replies to them, as soon as possible after their receipt, the delays, thanks to the facilities offered via New York and by the French and Dutch mail services, are not so great after all. It has, indeed, been found that letters sent via America often reach their destination quicker than they did before. In normal times passengers would be greatly inconvenienced by the absence of a direct steamer service, but few people nowadays care to travel by sea unless they are compelled to do so, though the submarine menace has lost its terrors. The R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, which sails again to-morrow, reached Tilbury on October 7th. Extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents are given below.

### ANTIGUA—The Value of Co-operation.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, SEPT. 16th.—The past fortnight has been very variable so far as rainfall is concerned. The Windward estates want a good downfall badly. Some patches to the west are getting all and more than is wanted, five inches having fallen on one estate in the Valley District. On the 6th inst. His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell distributed Queen Mary's gifts to the members of the local forces who were on duty on that day. There was quite a large gathering of people to see the ceremony of the first public party of the recruits for the West Indian Detachment. His Excellency delivered an impressive speech. The Onion Growers' Association brought the year's operations to a close very satisfactorily. The Governor presided at the annual meeting. The success achieved was largely due to the excellent work of Dr. Tempany and Mr. Jackson. The co-operative system of marketing produce deserves a trial on a larger scale, but it is difficult to persuade people that they can do better by co-operative effort than as individuals.

### BRITISH GUIANA—The Weather too dry.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, SEPT. 18th.—The weather is still much too dry, and rains are wanted. The Governor and Lady Egerton are leaving for Trinidad for a short visit. The protracted "Turf Club" case has resulted in a decision by the Chief Justice in favour of Mr. Cannon. The vital statistics of the colony, quoted in the *Argosy*, show that the infantile death rate for last quarter was 157 per 1,000 as against 133 for the same quarter in 1914 and 168 in 1913.

### MONTSERRAT—The Effect of Cotton "Dusting."

MR. K. P. PENCHOEN, SEPT. 17th.—Weather conditions are favourable for the cotton crop, but the constant dusting of the trees to keep in check the worst attack we have ever had of the cotton worm is found to affect the bearing of the plants, and the expense under the present conditions, will, I fear, be more than the crop can stand. Twenty-five recruits have passed medical examination, and await orders to proceed to England. Several recruiting meetings have been held. We have heard, with the deepest regret, of the death of Captain Martin at the front. During his stay in Montserrat he was liked and respected by all classes. A Memorial Service was held in St. Anthony's Church on Sunday the 5th by the Rector, Rev. Canon Haines.

### NEVIS—The Transatlantic Mail Question.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, SEPT. 2nd.—Thanks in a great measure to the example of the Hon. Charles Greaves, formerly Captain of the old Volunteer Force, recruiting is proceeding with enthusiasm. Dr. Rolston, Sub-Inspector Henderson,

and the Rev. Vanier, Messrs. Emery, Daggett, H. L. Sheppard and R. Mills are doing admirable work, the Acting Administrator having set the ball rolling by a public meeting in Charlestown. The weather has been rather unsettled, and fears were entertained that on the night of August 10th last, when the barometer dropped 3/10 that trouble of a character to be dreaded was on us, but with the loss of a boat or two, and some damage to the cotton crops, nothing more serious need be reported. The dilemma of the West Indies, through the termination of the contract by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is a vexed subject. Everyone knows and feels that a direct mail service is the only service that will ever give satisfaction in the West Indies. Eleven knot boats are a good substitute for a better service, a sailing ship will be a good substitute for an eleven knot boat. We are hurrying backward, that's clear. The cane crop promises well, and if the September and October rains come up to average, I will once more have the pleasure of reporting some thousands of tons of muscovado being manufactured in Nevis.

### ST. VINCENT—A Coastal Motor Boat Service.

MR. W. N. SANDS, SEPT. 18th.—Since the unsettled period in August we have experienced good seasonable weather. The St. Vincent Contingent for active service have received many useful gifts as a result of local voluntary efforts. The Administrator mentioned in a recent address that the average height and chest measurement of the men selected was considerably higher than the standard required, and was a good indication of their physical fitness for service.

The Government have decided to establish a Motor Boat Mail Service for the Leeward coast. An improved service was very desirable. The canoe method of transportation, reminiscent of the Carib occupation of the island, was far too slow, unsafe and uncomfortable for these days. The cost of initiating the new service would be in the neighbourhood of £700. It was intended to reduce the expenditure on the improvement and upkeep of certain unprofitable portions of the Leeward roads, and use the money for the new scheme. This excellent movement should prove "a boon and a blessing" to the people of the Leeward and other districts. Anyone who has made the journey from Kingstown to Chateaubelair either, with a blazing sun overhead, or in rough weather, or on a wet day, and sat for four hours cramped up in a canoe will never regret the passing of this ancient means of progression.

### TOBAGO.—The Bacolet Sugar Works Rebuilt.

MR. G. DAVID HATV, SEPT. 17th.—During the past fortnight we have had heavy thunder with vivid lightning, accompanied by heavy rains. Fortunately no high winds prevailed as we are in the hurricane period. The rainfall recorded at the Botanic Station since the 2nd inst. is 3.76 inches; for the month of August 7.22, and for July 13.78. The Supreme Court, presided over by Acting Justice Deane, held its last sittings for the year on the 8th and 9th, when four cases were tried in the Summary Jurisdiction, and an Application, the four cases in the Criminal Jurisdiction for unlawful possession of counterfeit coins is transferred to Port of Spain.

By a coincidence Sir Townsend Fenwick, K.C.M.G., and Mr. W. Gordon-Gordon were of the party that visited us recently, the latter seventeen years ago stoutly advocated in Council the complete amalgamation of Tobago as a ward of Trinidad, whilst the former thought differently. The exports of the island to all parts were then valued at £20,000; last year the exports to Trinidad, according to the corrected figures, exceeded £66,000, whilst the population, in spite of vital handicaps, has increased by 2,000. The results have justified Mr. Gordon-Gordon's most sanguine expectations, and Sir Townsend Fenwick is not dissatisfied. We would like to have Mr. Gordon-Gordon's support at the Legislative Council, where we already have two staunch friends in the persons of the Hon. the Director of Public Works and Dr. Lawrence.

The Bacolet sugar works are being rebuilt and should

be completed in time for grinding the stand-over canes at Christmas. The cultivation of Dominica limes has been started; this is a new industry.

Mails per *Magdalena* were five days late in arriving here; with the deferred sailing of the *Mexico* for ten and a half days the opportunity was given us of replying to letters at once to catch the latter boat at Port of Spain on the 15th. The further Admiralty award to Deal rescuers of the crew of H.M.S. *Niger* torpedoed in the Downs on 11th November last, is of local interest because Chief Coastguard Officer Shawe in charge of the station at Deal is a native of Tobago. Mr. Shawe has a son in the Army and another in the Navy.

Latest advices from London dated 25th August tell of the decision of the Royal Mail Company to discontinue the sailings of their steamers to these parts after the sailing of the *Magdalena*, which brought out the mails; but in the meantime we were informed by cable of the intended sailing of the *Dambe* on 22nd September. We are glad that Scruttons' are arranging regular fortnightly sailings of their boats, which together with the frequent opportunities offered by the other regular lines of combined passenger and cargo steamers, the French mail, and our regular New York connection three times per month, will prevent our being "on the fence" for any length of time.

Mrs. Sworder is preparing her third shipment of clothing and comforts for the British Red Cross Society, whose Director of Stores and Transports has written her a second letter of appreciation and thanks for the previous gifts. Miss Strange, the Commissioner's daughter, is energetically collecting shillings and dollars for supplying warm clothing to the Tobago lads who have joined the West India Contingent. It is satisfactory to hear that the lads go to Egypt for training on account of the more suitable climate.

The Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Collector of Customs, and Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., Director of Agriculture, are here. By the *Barima*, on which they came, there arrived for a local trader the first motor car in the island, indicating the very great improvement in our roads.

#### TRINIDAD - A Parade of the Local Forces.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPT. 13th.—Specimen boxes of the chocolate, the gift of Trinidad, Grenada and St. Lucia, have been forwarded by the Government to the different Associations, etc. The inscription on the box is as it should be, but there seems rather too much advertisement of Cadbury, as compared with the total absence of the donating Colonies on the chocolate itself, which will probably be more striking to the soldier than the box. [Comment was made in last CIRCULAR on this very point.]

There was a parade on the 11th of all the forces of the Colony, over 1,000 men, including the 400 men of the Public Contingent, who showed up wonderfully well after their short training. Fifty of the Constabulary, all that can be spared, will accompany them. The Parade was principally for the purpose of distributing Princess Mary's gifts to all soldiers who were serving last Christmas time. The Governor announced that he would take another opportunity of making a formal farewell to the Contingent.

By the invitation of the Tobago Planters' Association, a number of the members of the Board of Agriculture, including the Director of Agriculture and Sir Townsend Penwick, made a tour round that island in company with their hosts, finishing up with a meeting of the joint bodies at the Court House at Scarborough, and a lunch, at which I sat down, at the Union Club afterwards. I was favoured with a special invitation to be of the party, and so have the opportunity of testifying to the extreme pleasure of the visit, and the hospitality and kindness of our entertainers. We had a really splendid time from start to finish. A landing was made at several places giving full opportunity to note the progress and growing prosperity of the island. The voyage, four and a half days, was made in the *Barima*, and better accommodation could not have been provided in any private yacht. The

grateful thanks of all the guests are due to the Chairman of the Planters' Association, Mr. Orde, the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Pitcairn, and to the other members, who omitted nothing to contribute to the success of the visit.

SEPTEMBER 25th.—At Government House there are an unusual number of distinguished guests, and inquisitive people are wondering whether the gathering portends anything serious for the weal or woe of the Colony or the West Indies generally. First there arrived Mr. Harford, H.B.M. Minister at Caracas, then Sir Walter and Lady Egerton from Demerara, and, yesterday, Sir G. Haddon-Smith from Grenada. On Monday evening last the Consular Body were the guests of the Governor at dinner to meet Mr. Harford. The whole party visit the Pitch Lake to-day the journey being made by motor car.

Another large shipment of oil has left Perth Amboy. It has at last been decided to add an unofficial to the Executive Council of the Colony. This body has hitherto consisted of a number of officials who, with the exception of the Director of Public Works, have, it may be said without offence, practically no experience of the general business working of the Colony outside their own Department. Hence a series of somewhat extraordinary blunders quite innocently committed which do not however add to the influence or popularity of the Government, and have been, perhaps, more frequent than customary of late. Mr. H. A. Alcazar, K.C., the senior unofficial member of Council, has been selected for the position, and appointed by the Secretary of State. Mr. Alcazar adds to a brilliant reputation as a lawyer, that of possessing a considerable fund of common sense. He has broad, progressive views, and he knows the country and the people. Some would perhaps have preferred a strictly business man, but, on the whole, the appointment will meet with approval, and the hearty congratulations of his friends follow this special distinction conferred upon him in addition to the others he has so justly earned.

According to the Report of the Inspector of Mines for year ending 31st March last there were ten oil companies operating. The number of wells drilled was 65 against 41 the previous year, completing 239 in all. Oil was struck in 38 of the 65 wells drilled. The production for three years has been:—

1912-13	...	17,626,563	imperial gallons
1913-14	...	22,523,000	" "
1914-15	...	36,753,931	" "

which may, I presume, be considered satisfactory. The royalty collected amounted to £9,466. Only one new prospecting license was issued, viz., to Sir William Ingram, covering an area of 5,429 acres. The practical interest of men like Sir William in our newest mineral industry is very welcome.

The useful work being done unostentatiously by the Forest Branch of the Crown Lands Department is evident from the report of the hardworking and enthusiastic Forest Officer, Mr. C. S. Rogers. Notwithstanding losses through drought, 14,000 young timber trees were added, bringing the number of these valuable additions to the future wealth of the Colony to 70,700 against 56,500 the previous year. The re-forestation of Crown lands with our splendid native woods is a wise provision all the more to be appreciated by reason of the fact that after providing the cost of the new plantations a surplus of receipts over expenditure in the Forest Branch of £2,983 remains.

The Trinidad Government Dock and Workshop Report is also published, and again affords evidence of the good and careful administration of Mr. Bell, the General Manager, and his Committee. 37,398 tons (51 vessels) were docked, giving a revenue of £27,041, and a net profit of £2,518. The accounts are published in understandable form, clear and comprehensive. The indirect benefit of the presence of a dock in the harbour, apart from actual financial results, is large.

The Ankylostomiasis Commission report is a striking document. 10,360 persons (6,395 East Indians and 3,965 creoles) were examined, and it was found that 5,108 East Indians and 1,296 creoles were infected. The following

paragraph should certainly attract the attention it merits in the proper quarter: "The Commission examined 200 newly arrived immigrants. Of these, 100 were found to carry infection, and the Commission would particularly emphasise that efforts directed towards the eradication of Ankylostomiasis are not likely to be crowned with success unless the importation of fresh infection is prevented."

## WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

### The Colonial Bank.

Presiding at the 155th half-yearly General Meeting at Winchester House, London, on October 6th, Mr. Charles R. Gurney Hoare, Chairman, moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said, that comparing the accounts with those for the same period of 1914, of the first three items on the debit side the only change was the transfer of £25,000 from reserve to special reserve against depreciation of investments, reported six months ago. Notes in circulation were £15,000 more. Deposits and current accounts were £75,000 less; but this was very largely accounted for by the reduction of the Government balances in the various islands. They had all been using their own money, and carefully avoiding getting any money from England. Bills payable were £43,000 less, showing that customers in the West Indies had been purchasing less on this side, owing, no doubt, to the higher prices consequent on the war. Profit showed just on £8,000 more, and was the most satisfactory they had had for a good many years. This was mainly due to the high value of money in London, and this, whilst helping profit, tended still further to depreciate the value of their securities. On the other side, specie was £144,000 less, but this was partly balanced by cash at call and short notice on this side, which showed an increase of £93,000. Investments showed an increase of £16,000, and Bills Receivable were £10,000 less. Money due in the Colonies was £53,000 less, owing to the earlier sale of produce this half-year as compared with the same period last year, and by better prices. Bills Discounted were £10,000 more, and Bank Premises remained at the same valuation. With the amount brought forward, £36,194 19s. 10d., there was a balance of £66,889 15s. 10d. to deal with. Out of this balance they had to set aside a further sum of £18,000 for depreciation in the value of Investments, which would then stand, with the provisions made, well within the market price on the 30th June, and £18,000 for the usual dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. for the half-year, free of Income Tax, leaving the carry-over £30,889 15s. 10d., against £36,134 19s. 10d. at this time last year. Last year they largely increased the carry-over, but this was done mainly owing to the difficulty at that time of valuing securities, and he feared they might expect even further reductions with the probable high value of money for some time to come. As to the general trend of the business, though the period had been one of anxiety, it had been satisfactory from a banking point of view. The crops were below the average, but prices were high, and customers have benefited thereby. The hurricane did considerable damage to the banana crop in the north-east corner of Jamaica, but hurricanes were a risk which cultivators in the West Indies were bound to expect, and this one was not unusually severe. Trade had also been handicapped by the lack of shipping, which had been very short of what was required. Still, prices promised to be good, the weather had been favourable, and they hoped and expected that the present crops would bring good results. He thought it would interest shareholders to know that their Director, Colonel Sofer Whitburn, had gone with his Yeomanry for service abroad, and Sir Maxwell Aitken had been constantly over in France. As many of the Staff as it had been possible to spare were serving in different capacities. The Bank had also to the best of its powers assisted the country in its need. They took £100,000 of the new War Loan, and they now held in all £200,000 of the new Loan, and £70,000 of the old, which, he thought, having regard to the amount they had to invest, would

compare favourably with the investments made by some of the other banks, although their figures might look larger. He concluded by moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts. The motion was seconded by Mr. A. J. McConnell, and carried unanimously.

### The Demerara Railway Company.

Owing to the reduction of the staff in the colony, due to withdrawals for military service, and to interruptions in the Transatlantic Mail Service, the half-yearly accounts have only just been received from British Guiana, and it will, therefore, not be possible to present the Report and Balance Sheet this month as usual. In these circumstances the Board have decided to delay convening the Ordinary Half-Yearly General Meeting until at later date, which they hope will be in about a month's time.

### The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The production of petroleum for the week ended Wednesday, October 6th, was 592 tons.

1 1/2 p cent	Latest Quotations.	Rate
1 1/2 p cent		Oct. 16
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	93
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1915	94
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94 1/2
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1924	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 1/2 %	Trinidad ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
6 %	The Colonial Bank ...	81 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	80 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	85 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	87 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	87 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	100
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	147
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	5/9
7 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (2 shares)	213 2/6
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	18
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Pref. Pref.	101
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	79
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	85
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	19/9
6/	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	
6/	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd "	84
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	90

## THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, Tilbury, Oct. 5th.

Mr. H. L. Born	Dr. & Mrs. W. A. George	Mr. H. McKay
Mrs. V. G. Byas	Mr. A. D. Gaskin	Mr. C. Malone
Mr. F. Barnard	Mrs. C. F. Higgins	Mr. L. Owen
Mr. A. A. Barnard	Mr. A. P. Higgins	Mr. T. L. O'Donoghue
Mr. E. C. Collier	Miss H. Higgins	Capt. and Mrs. R. M. Partridge
Lieut. P. E. Cressall	Mr. W. Hardiman	Mrs. A. M. Potter
Mr. T. Conannon	Mrs. M. Hayward	Mr. C. G. Rice
Mr. F. C. N. Day	Mr. E. B. Higgins	Mr. J. Russell
Capt. A. H. Farley	Mr. V. C. Hling	Mr. W. Shaw
Mr. A. Foster	Lieut. T. E. Irving	Miss A. C. Thorne
Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Greig	Mr. S. Munton	
Miss N. M. Gooding	Mrs. Mitchell	

### ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, Oct. 20th.

Mr. F. J. Morris	Dr. & Mrs. R. Scheult	Miss F. M. Packer
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Rodrigues	Mrs. C. Paterson	Mr. G. Davidson
Mr. M. J. Tavel	Miss L. Paterson	Mrs. L. Wrong
Mr. P. Cressall	Mr. T. Quinlan	Miss Farmer
Mr. F. H. Watkins	Miss Clark	Mrs. & Miss A. Lefflander
Mr. J. A. Gordon	Miss Teupple Johnson	Mr. H. E. Knowles
Mrs. J. T. Johnson	Miss H. Murray	Mr. J. Fogarty
Mr. F. Parsons	Mr. R. W. Tomlinson	Mr. W. Cuddeford
Mr. W. A. Moore	Mr. E. Vile	Mr. E. A. Solesbury
Rev. Father F. J. O'Reilly	Mrs. & Miss Kirby	Mrs. L. Devaux
Mrs. J. L. Pogson	Miss D. G. Campbell	Misses Devaux (2)
	Mr. & Mrs. S. Packer	

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

Mr. A. K. Agar  
Mr. B. Boyon  
Mr. A. Campbell  
Mr. C. F. Castro  
Mr. J. W. Casthart  
Mr. Arthur E. Todd  
Hon. H. Ferguson  
Mr. E. Fitzgerald  
Mr. W. M. Fletcher  
Mr. P. L. Guppy  
Mr. A. T. Hammond  
Mrs. E. Haynes  
His Honour Leslie  
Jarvis  
Mr. A. L. McGill  
Mr. M. Moody-Stuart  
Mr. A. E. Morrish  
Mr. T. W. O'Neil  
Mr. A. E. Perkins  
Mr. W. C. Robertson  
Mr. W. J. Robson  
Mr. G. Elliott Sealy  
Mr. F. B. B. Shand  
and  
Mr. R. B. Short  
Mr. F. H. S. Warneford

Mr. J. R. Bancroft, c/o Messrs. Samuel Dobree & Son, 7, Moorgate St., E.C.  
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Haregate.  
Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossinoysne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
Hon. P. J. Dean, St. Brannocks, Mundesley, Norfolk.  
Mr. T. L. Dunrope, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 35, Road Lane, E.C.  
Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornion House, Wisborough Green, Sussex.  
Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.  
Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Ardath, Esher, Surrey.  
Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sulton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
Mr. R. C. Skinner, "Fairview," Mayfield, Sussex.  
Mr. S. H. Taylor, Charterhouse Hotel, Charterhouse Square, E.C.  
Mr. J. H. Wraith, c/o Mrs. Hobills, 13, Beaumont Street, W.  
Mr. H. F. Wildy, 49, Church Lane, Hornsey, N.

**BANK RATE**—Stands at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. Old War Loan is quoted at 92½; New War Loan at 97½ cum rights and 97½ ex rights. Consols stand at 65.

**SUGAR**—The Finance Bill has now passed the Commons, and the additional duties on sugar imposed by Resolution have been confirmed. The effect of these is to place yellow crystallised grocery sugars in a far more advantageous position in relation to white grocery sugars than before. The latter pay the full duty, while the former only pay that based on a polarisation of about 96°. The result of the higher duties thus is that while white sugars under the old duties paid £ 16s. 8d. per ton, and yellow sugar about £ 11s. 8d., the former now pay £ 9 4s. per ton duty, and the latter £ 8. The advantage has thus increased from 5s. per ton to £ 1 4s. per ton, and the present is, therefore, an excellent opportunity for extending the sale of West Indian crystallised sugars.

The Board of Trade Returns for September show that the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom amounted during that month to 151,514 tons. Of this 7,160 tons of refined came from Holland and 24,513 tons from the United States; Java contributing to the white sugar market 9,730 tons of plantation crystals. Of the raw sugar 82,565 tons came from Java, 23,015 tons from Cuba, and 2,703 tons from the British West Indies. The total imports for the nine months were 1,099,076 tons as against 1,230,491 tons in 1914 and 1,440,350 tons in 1913. Of the above 1,099,076 tons, 289,480 tons were sent by Cuba, 293,611 tons by Java, 64,552 tons by the United States, 156,552 tons by Mauritius, 26,954 tons by the Argentine, 97,965 tons by the British West Indies, 26,013 tons by Peru, 21,561 tons by Brazil, and 79,600 tons by Holland. The quantity of white plantation cane crystals imported amounted to 180,723 tons. A few years back this class of sugar was practically unknown here.

The stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom on the 30th of September were 165,300 tons as against 148,700 tons on the 31st of August. The consumption based on imports was 134,914 tons. This is a considerable reduction on the pre-war consumption, which in September, 1913, was 159,664 tons; and it is extremely probable that the second wave of economy passing over the country will give rise to a very definite and lasting decrease in the sugar consumption of this country. The blind faith which the average British housekeeper has in cube sugar will not allow her to give it up in favour of granulated, and the present high price of this kind of sugar will only cause a lowering of consumption generally. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies has issued a notice stating that, save in very exceptional instances, the retail price of sugar should not exceed 6d. for cubes, 4d. for granulated, and 3½d. for Javacs, and asking that buyers will furnish them with instances of charges in excess of these figures.

Although there has been no official announcement, it is understood in official circles in the United States that the removal of the United States Customs duty on sugar, scheduled to take place on the 1st of May next year, will be indefinitely postponed. The shortage of general revenue is accountable for this, and it is doubtful, after the experience of the United Kingdom as regards sugar, that the United States will ever sacrifice the sugar industries she has so carefully built up on the altar of Free Trade. The removal of the duty, although detrimental to her own industries, would have been of material advantage to the British West Indies, the sugar of which is now prejudiced in the New York market to the extent of £ 7 3s. 4d. as compared with Cuban, and of nearly £ 6 as compared with Porto Rican sugar. The maintenance of the United States sugar tariff means the retention in the world supplies of 1,000,000 tons of sugar which its abolition would have caused to disappear when prices readjust themselves after the war, and must inevitably cause disappointment in many other sugar growing quarters where expectations had been based on the destruction of the United States domestic sugar industries.

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		St. Vincent.	
Jan. 1 to Aug. 26.		Jan. 1 to Sept. 11.		Jan. 1 to Aug. 31.	
1915	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914
Sugar ...	54,817	48,239 Tons	13,513	12,275 Tons.	
Molasses		82,770 Puns.			
Rum	2,748,506	1,872,133 Galls.	1,082,931	928,714 Galls.	
Molascuit, &c...	1,273	1,069 Tons.			
Cacao	58,174	13,437 lbs.	2,010,640	6,837,712 lbs.	
Coffee	172,185	328,746	5,818,176	5,760,456	
Coco-nuts	1,308,215	1,232,822 No.	18,923,394	20,151,540 No.	
Oranges			3,544,850	2,604,250	
Bananas			7,610,883	13,678,332 Srens.	
Cotton			33,249	32,607 lbs.	
Pimento			41,168	64,027 Cwts.	
Ginger			10,047	16,786	
Honey			112,583	141,748 Galls.	
Dr.woods			33,063	44,212 Tons.	
Gold	37,525	37,765 Ozs.			
Diamonds	471	9,517 Carats.			
Rice	14,588,502	9,808,117 lbs.			
Palata	860,185	421,626 "			
Rubber	1,979	782 "			
Timber	93,119	172,079 cub. ft.			
Lumber	103,045	236,499 ft.			
Lime (hydrate of)	11,118	3,717 lbs.			
Trinidad.		Barbados.		Grenada.	
Jan. 1 to Sept. 15		Jan. 1 to Sept. 17		Oct. 1 to Sept. 19.	
1915		1915		1914/15	
Sugar ...	39,635	45,085 Tons	30,730	31,451 Tons.	
Molasses	4,317	3,276 Puns.	30,544	99,447 Puns.	
Rum	5,314	769 "			
Coco-nuts	7,198,730	10,847,575 No.			
Asphalt	69,891	112,742 Tons.			
Manjak	496	171 "			
Butters	11,468	13,057 Cases.			
Coffee	10,560	13,440 lbs.			
Crude Petrol	5,243,224	11,022,238 Galls.			
Cacao	42,938,890	59,791,600 lbs.			
Cotton					
Seed					
Copra	16,799	6,728 Bags.			
Sisal					
Kola					

THERE has been of late an enormous increase in the output of the Spanish orange industry, so much so that the glutting of the usual markets for these is threatened. While one cause of this is the extensive planting that has been going on for some years, another, says the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts, is the progressive elimination of insect pests by the hydrocyanic fumigation process.

The forecast of the United States' official *Monthly Crop Report* gives 10.3 short tons per acre as the probable yield of the Western beet crop of that country, or 6,842,000 short tons in all. Assuming that 10 per cent. of the acreage is not reaped, which is an average experience, the quantity of beets sent to the factories will be 6,158,000 short tons. These, on the same return of sugar as was obtained last year, would give a crop of 841,000 short or 750,000 long tons, as against 640,257 long tons last year. The same authority states that the outlook for the Louisiana crop is poor, and the output will probably be 10 per cent. short of last year's crop, which totalled 216,696 tons.

Australia is reported to have secured 15,000 tons of Peruvian sugar. As a rule the comparatively small import wants of that country are supplied from Fiji; but the threatened heavy shortage of the Queensland crop is necessitating Australia going further afield for her sugar. Peru is assuming more and more importance as a sugar supplying country.

The September Indian sugar figures are not yet to hand, so that the figures for the imports of sugar for the six months of the financial year are not yet available. It would appear, however, from the weekly returns that India is resuming her accustomed amount of import in this respect. The *Indian Trade Journal* gives the official valuation of the Java high grade sugar, 23 Dutch standard and over, imported during August as £15 13s. 6d. per ton net. The valuation of Mauritius sugars of lower grade, 16 Dutch and over, is £16 per ton.

The Cuban deliveries up to the 9th inst. amounted to 2,531,760 tons, or only 18,204 tons below the figures for last crop to corresponding date. The weather has been on the whole favourable to next year's crop. 50,000 tons of Cuban sugar have been bought for immediate delivery at \$2.90 1/2c.

It will be remembered that the Mauritius Planters a short time back were compelled to accept the Royal Commission's price for their embargoed current crop sugar, which was considerably below what had been offered outside. Since then there has been a considerable fall in the price of sugar, and American refiners' granulated for export can be bought at a lower figure than the price arranged for the Mauritius sugar. The Royal Commission, therefore, with exquisite magnanimity, has offered to release the Mauritius planters from their bargain.

In the London market 1,000 tons of West Indian crystallised were offered at auction sales on the 8th inst., which met with fair demand at steady prices. Trinidad sold at 29s. to 29s. 3d.; Demerara at 29s. to 30s. 9d., with a small lot at 31s.; while the Antigua was bought in. Syrups and muscovado fetched full value and met with ready sale. 1,651 bags of Demerara syrups, selling at 27s. 6d. to 25s. 6d., and 248 bags Jamaica muscovado at 24s. to 24s. 9d. On the 12th 460 tons were offered, and a fair amount sold at previous rates, 1,806 bags Surinam crystallised being sold at 28s. 9d. to 29s. 3d., and 501 bags Jamaica being partly sold at 27s. 9d. The Trinidad and Demerara sugars were bought in.

At auction on the 15th the demand for crystallised was slow. 480 tons were offered, but only a portion sold. Jamaica at 28s., and Demerara at 28s. 6d. to 31s. There was some bidding for Jamaica muscovado, a good part of the 1,107 bags offered being sold at 24s. 6d. to 26s.

The West India Sugar Statistics from January 1st to the 9th inst. are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	444,99	27,085	34,775	24,212	32,899
Deliveries ...	36,546	30,702	23,413	25,246	30,491
Stock (Sept. 25)	13,962	9,335	13,202	3,456	6,768

In the New York market there has been a considerable recovery in the price of duty paid 96° sugars, and those, which at the date of our last Summary stood at \$3.60, were quoted on the 16th at \$4.20. The cause of this recovery is ascribed to the action of the speculators as the result of the report of the continuance of the import duties to which reference has already been made. The price of

granulated has slightly stiffened in sympathy with raw, and stands at \$4.90.

**RUM**—There is no change to report. Both Jamaica and Demerara remain very firm at unchanged prices.

The Stocks in London on October 9th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	4,804	8,220	7,436	9,091	10,827
Demerara ...	6,039	7,803	6,394	6,422	4,230
Total, all kinds	22,572	21,948	22,650	23,676	23,984

**CACAO**—The market has been firm with advancing prices. At auction sales on the 12th, 7692 bags were offered. Of these 3,607 bags were British West Indian, on which a general advance in value of 1s. was obtained. 753 bags Trinidad were in part sold at 84s. 6d. to 86s.; some Grenada sold at 79s. 6d. to 80s. 6d.; 2,347 bags Jamaica were partly sold at 70s. to 84s. 6d.; 3 bags of Dominica fetched 72s. to 77s. 6d.; a few bags of Demerara were sold at 81s. 6d.

The Board of Trade figures for September show that during the month 20,718,916 lbs. of cacao were imported, as against 7,246,848 lbs. in September, 1914, and 6,577,657 lbs. in September, 1913. For the nine months of the present year 162,361,709 lbs. have been imported, as against 71,032,671 lbs. and 61,831,055 lbs. for the same periods of 1914 and 1913 respectively. 4,726,470 lbs. were exported in September as against 510,339 lbs. for the same month last year, making 44,735,484 lbs. for the nine months as against 10,645,046 lbs. for the first nine months of last year. There is, therefore, no appreciable diminution in exports in spite of the prohibition to export to certain European countries. The total stock of cacao on the 30th September in the United Kingdom was 58,678,000 lbs., as against 34,094,000 lbs. for September last year.

The Stocks in London on the 9th inst. were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	14,401	12,370	12,681	7,394	7,958
Grenada ...	2,289	6,466	4,516	2,275	9,975
Total, all kinds	128,783	92,662	86,050	105,445	106,343

**COFFEE**—The market has an upward tendency. At auction sales out of 171 bags Jamaica offered, 11 of good ordinary quality sold at 43s.

**COTTON**—The market continues firm. 400 bales of West Indian Sea Island sold on the basis of 14d. to 16d. for white cotton, and 7d. to 9d. for stains. The imports of cotton into the United Kingdom for the year up to the 14th inst. amounted to 4,620 bales.

**ARROWROOT**—The market has been quiet. Some sales of St. Vincent have been made at 2½d. to 2¾d.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs are unchanged 100's/80's. 4½d. to 6½d.; 120's/100's. 4½d. to 4¾d.; 140's/120's. 4½d. to 4¾d. Mace is lower—Good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 4d.; red to good, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 11d.; broken, 6d. to 1s. 2d. Pimento, fair to good, 2½d. to 2¾d.; ordinary to middling, 2d. to 2¼d. Ginger unchanged at 55s. to 65s. for ordinary to medium; £68 to £70 good to fine.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil A steady business is passing in distilled at 7s. 6d. per lb. A sale of handpressed has been made at 8s. 3d. Lime Juice. A steady business has been done in raw at 3s. for good quality Jamaica, Dominica, and other West Indian. Concentrated is unchanged at £30, with no sales to report. Citrate of Lime higher at £27 c.i.f. New York.

**RUBBER**—Prices have ranged higher during the fortnight, and fine plantation may now be quoted at 2s. 6½d. The value of fine hard Para is now 2s. 5½d., with soft at 2s. 5½d. This is, however, weakening in the absence of demand.

**BALATA**—Block has been slow of sale with business reported at 1s. 8½d. Sheet is steady with Spot value 2s. 4½d.

**HONEY**—No change to report. Holders are disinclined to give way, and there is no great demand from buyers.

**COPRA** is in good demand at higher prices. There are no sales of West Indian to report. Present value

Oct. 18th, 1915.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXX.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.  
15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.4.  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

November 2nd, 1915.

### THE INDUSTRIES OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.

At the best of times comparatively little is heard in this country about that outlying dependency of Jamaica known as the Cayman Islands, and in the stress and turmoil of war a disaster of unparalleled gravity in the history of the group, which has recently occurred to two of them, has passed unnoticed. The islands comprise Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac, and have a total area of 87 square miles; it is the two last-named of these islands that have suffered. On August 13th they were visited by a hurricane which practically devastated Cayman Brac, turning it in the short space of an hour from a well-kept coco-nut grove of great promise to an arid desert. Of 30,000 coco-nut trees which had been planted within comparatively recent years, no less than 98 per cent. were blown down at Cayman Brac, and 40 per cent. in Little Cayman, while in the former island out of 261 houses only a single one was left intact, while 75 per cent. were totally destroyed. Leaving out of the question the sale of postage stamps, the Cayman Islands are mainly dependent on the turtle fishing industry, the turtle being caught off the Cays on the coast of Nicaragua and brought to the islands to fatten. Unfortunately, in the smaller islands the people fish exclusively for the hawk's bill turtle, whose shell provides the tortoise-shell of commerce, which, owing to the war, is practically unmarket-

able, Continental countries, and particularly Germany, having been the chief purchasers. As this commodity, together with coco-nuts, afforded the only means of subsistence for the inhabitants, their deplorable position may well be imagined. The Government, too, was a direct sufferer, all its property being destroyed, including a two-storey building with accommodation for the Post Office on the ground floor, and the Court House above, which was only completed two weeks before the blow. It is clear that Mr. A. C. ROBINSON, the energetic Commissioner, will have his work cut out for him to set the islands on their feet again, and in this connection it is a matter for congratulation that the dependency has a reserve fund of £5,000 to draw upon, which will obviate the necessity of issuing an appeal for assistance. That the promising coco-nut industry, which, it will be remembered, was threatened by disease a few years ago, should thus have been nipped in the bud is greatly to be regretted, and it is to be feared that it has now gone beyond recall.

From this gloomy picture it is pleasant to turn to the efforts which are being successfully made to develop a new industry in the neighbouring island of Grand Cayman, which may eventually be extended to Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. We refer to the industry of turtle canning, which is making very satisfactory progress, and has relieved what would otherwise have been a desperate situation so far as the turtle trade is concerned. The factory began operations last July, and in the short space of three weeks it canned 500 turtle, this representing 900 cases of two dozen 2lb. and 3lb. tins of meat, calipee and skin, each. Estimating the number of turtle caught in the course of a year at 2,000 head, this would yield approximately 4,000 cases of 24 tins each annually. At present only forty hands are employed in the work, but the number will be increased as time goes on, and fifteen vessels are already employed, under a contract for five years, with an average crew of seven men each. The result is that the Caymanians have a reliable and steady market, money is circulated, and employment is given to a fair number of the 4,000 inhabitants of the island. The prices paid are 51s. for grown female turtle from 120 lbs. upwards, and 32s. 6d. for males of the same weight. The development of this industry, like the lobster canning industry successfully established by Mr. SULLY in the Caicos Islands, where a factory capable of canning 900 to 1,100 lobsters per day has been set up, will be watched with close interest. It is possible that the salvation of the Cayman Islands may be found to lie in its new canning industry, and we sincerely trust that this may be so.

## CO-OPERATION IN ANTIGUA.

THE principle of co-operation in respect to agriculture is making gradual though slow progress in the British West Indies. In purely commercial circles the value of co-operation has for long been fully recognised, as is instanced by the success which has attended the operations of such Insurance Companies as the British Guiana Mutual and the Hand-in-Hand Assurance Company of the same colony, and the Barbados Mutual. In agricultural matters, however, comparatively little advance was made until recent years. The introduction of the Central Factory system as applied to sugar manufacture, and the establishment of cane farming by the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK and DR. MORTON was a notable step in the right direction; but, generally speaking, many sugar planters still prefer to manufacture their own canes into sugar, even by the most primitive methods, rather than commit them to a Central Factory, though the Central Factory system is being more widely accepted in the West Indies than it was before. The establishment of co-operative gineries at the instance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Barbados and St. Vincent has furnished a working example of the value of co-operation. So, too, has the Government Lime Factory in St. Lucia, an account of the working of which for last season is given elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. A good agriculturist is not necessarily a good manufacturer; nor is a good factory man an ideal planter—and herein lies one of the great advantages of the co-operative factory system. Under it the agriculturist is able to devote his entire time to agriculture, instead of having also to tackle the complex question of factory management, which is entrusted to experts in that line of business. Another example of successful co-operation is furnished by the Antigua Onion Growers' Association, whose report for 1914-15 is now before us. The cultivation of onions in Antigua is, it is true, a very small industry at present, but the manner in which it is being conducted leads one to hope that there is in it the germ of greater things. In all, twenty-five estates united to dispose of their produce to the Association for a first payment of 1 cent per lb. on delivery, followed by the promise of a distribution of the surplus profits pro rata among members, according to the amounts delivered by them, at the end of the season. The total gross weight of onions purchased was 186,198 lbs. These were graded, cured, packed and shipped by the Association, all necessary expenses, including the cost of freights, being borne by that body, and as the result of the season's work it was found possible to pay a bonus of 2s. 1½d. per 100 lbs. of onions in addition to the first payment at the rate of 4s. 2d. per 100 lbs. It is noteworthy that the operations of last season were more than four times the size of those of the preceding year, a successful result for which much credit is due to the Committee, comprising MR. A. P. COWLEY (Chairman), MR. R. S. D. GOODWIN, MR. R.

BRYSON, and MR. N. SCOTT JOHNSON, who enjoyed the advantage of much valuable advice and assistance from DR. TEMPANY and MR. JACKSON. The advantages of the co-operative system may be summarised very briefly. To begin with, the planters are assured of receiving without delay the price which will permit of their produce being grown at a reasonable margin of profit, and they are freed from any anxiety or responsibility with regard to the shipping and marketing of the crop. Then, again, the provision of a central packing and exporting establishment results in a much higher level of quality of the produce exported being reached, and also in the generalisation and standardisation of the industry, enabling contracts and orders to be obtained and fulfilled to much greater advantage than hitherto. It is not surprising to learn that, in view of the success of the movement in Antigua, similar Associations are to be formed in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, just as the local enterprise in cultivating and kiln-drying maize has found its imitators elsewhere.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

THE number of members admitted to the West India Committee during the present year already exceeds that of 1914. The present is a favourable opportunity of joining the Committee. The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

During the year to date 100 new members have been elected to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	... 13	Anguilla	... 1
British Guiana	... 11	Bahamas	... 1
Barbados	... 10	British Honduras	... 1
Jamaica	... 7	Nevis	... 1
Tobago	... 6	Nigeria	... 1
St. Vincent	... 6	Colombia	... 1
Grenada	... 6	Uganda	... 1
Montserrat	... 5	Venezuela	... 1
Antigua	... 4	London	... 13
St. Kitts	... 3	Country	... 5
Dominica	... 3		

## THE OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

We have received the following communication from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company:—

October 23rd, 1915.

Dear Sir,

As the paragraph at the foot of page 451 of the current number of your CIRCULAR respecting the letter received from the Colonial Office gives only a partial account of the offers made by the Company for the continuation of the above service, and might therefore be misleading to the people of the West Indies, I am desired to say that the Company will be obliged if you will publish the copy of their letter to the General Post Office of the 9th ultimo, which I enclose herewith.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. H. BENNETT,

Secretary.

(Enclosure.)

9th September, 1915.

Sir,—1. Referring to the correspondence which has taken place in regard to the West India Mail service, and to the interviews which have ensued, we now find ourselves in the position that since we made the offer to the Government about six weeks ago, to give a four-weekly Service of about eleven knots, one of the steamers on which we were relying for that service, SS. *Panama*, and also another of our vessels hitherto employed by the West India Mail Service, SS. *Tagus* on which we could have relied as a stand-by, have passed into the service of the Government at Hospital Ships, the consequence being that we are not now in a position to give the eleven knot Service which has been contemplated.

2. At the same time, we understand from our conversations that an eleven knot Service would hardly have been satisfactory to the Government and that they consider a speed of about twelve and a half knots would be required. We have further explained that, in consequence of the number of our steamers that have been requisitioned for National purposes, the only vessels now available for the West India Mail Service are SS. *Magdalena* and SS. *Danube*, which vessels can maintain about thirteen knots in ordinary circumstances, but which are expensive vessels to run, especially under existing conditions, when the operating costs have substantially advanced and revenue greatly fallen.

3. We now beg to state that we are prepared to run these vessels, subject to their non-requisition, for six months in a four-weekly Service between London and Trinidad, extending the itinerary to Colon, provided the Government will make a payment per voyage which will obviate loss: that is to say, if the revenue is not sufficient to provide running expenses plus depreciation on the original cost, then the Government to make up the revenue sufficiently to meet these charges. If, however, the revenue enables these charges to be met and there is a surplus, that surplus to be handed over to the Government. Should one of the vessels be requisitioned or incapacitated for Service, the Government to be entitled to terminate the arrangement in respect of the remaining vessel, as it might be impracticable for the Company to provide a substituted ship.

4. In case the Government prefer to pay a fixed sum per voyage, we would be equally agreeable to enter into an arrangement on that basis.

We offer, therefore, to run SS. *Danube* and SS. *Magdalena* on the four-weekly schedule proposed, provided the Government will become responsible for the payment of a fixed sum of not less than £4,000 per voyage, due on the despatch of each steamer.

The average loss per voyage on the running of SS.

*Danube* and SS. *Magdalena* on the route London to Colon, since the War began, not taking the subsidy into account, comes to £5,600 per steamer.

It will, therefore, be seen that the payment of £4,000 per voyage is still likely to leave us with a loss, but not of such a serious character that it cannot be borne for six months, and we are prepared to meet this loss in view of the Company's long connection with the West India Mail Service.

5. Arrangements are being made, as per my letter of the 27th August, to despatch SS. *Danube* on the 22nd September to afford time for these proposals to be considered by His Majesty's Postmaster General.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. W. BENNETT.

The Secretary, General Post Office.

Secretary.

The Colonial Office, in their letter to the West India Committee to which Mr. Bennett refers, vouchsafed no further information respecting the offers of his Company than that summarised on page 451 in last CIRCULAR. In the circumstances we can accept no blame in the matter. It must be admitted that the letter of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to the Post Office puts a different complexion on the withdrawal of their earlier offer. We are satisfied, however, that the fresh proposals which were rejected by the Postmaster-General would not have commended themselves to the colonies.

A VANILLA-PRODUCING plant, *Vanilla ovalis*, has been found in the island of Mindoro, in the Philippines. According to the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts, the plant has roots similar to those of amlong, which have been found to be superior to amlong for use in basket-making, being pure white in colour. The plant is found in open ravines and deep forests. The Philippine Board of Education is endeavouring to ascertain if the plant has any commercial use for vanilla extract.

In the March number of the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture some valuable information is given on the subject of the quantity of lime required for sterilisation and neutralisation purposes. As regards sterilisation, the amount of lime necessary has been found to vary greatly, and the method proposed by the authors for indicating the quantity is that of produced distinct alkalinity in the soil water. By this means the necessary partial sterilisation is obtained with the desired destruction of protozoa and maleficent bacteria. Caustic lime must be used.

FOR neutralisation purposes, a method based on the absorptive capacity of the soil for carbonate of lime is used, one advantage of the process being that with soils already neutral no absorption is indicated, soils showing a positive lime requirement by this method responding distinctly to the application of carbonate by greater plant growth in field work, resulting from increased ammonia and nitrate production. The character of the natural flora of the soil is a good indication of the reaction of the soil, whether it be acid, neutral, or alkaline.



## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

*Passed by the Censor for publication.*

In France the resignation of M. Delcasse, his country's greatest Foreign Minister of modern times, was the unmistakable sign that the Viviani Government, which has been in power since August 26th, 1914, was tottering. It has now fallen, and M. Briand is the new pilot of the State in France. Was the resignation of Sir Edward Carson last week the forerunner of Cabinet changes in England? For he, like M. Delcasse, differed with his colleagues on the Balkan policy, which he wanted to stiffen. At any rate, all the talk is of a smaller Cabinet, which should consist of about five members, including the Secretary of War, the First Lord (who should be a sailor), and the Minister of Munitions. A body which consists of twenty-one members is more like a debating society than a directing instrument of the national will. So shaken is public confidence by the Balkan situation that Mr. Asquith is bound to take some drastic action.

The latest futility of British diplomacy was the offer to cede Cyprus to Greece for her support in the war. She refused the bribe (which was conceived in the spirit of Ethelred the Unready), since it is not so much her sympathy with Germany that keeps her neutral, but her fear of Germany's military power. The only way to secure the active co-operation of Roumania and Greece in the Allied interest is to land an army of at least three hundred thousand men in Thrace. We have landed 13,000, and the French a force whose numbers have not been given. Clearly there has been a compromise, which in war is always fatal. It is possible, of course, that Italy may send the necessary forces, since her advance along the Isonzo cannot appreciably relieve the pressure on Serbia.

After fifteen months of war, with no decisive results on land in Europe, we are committed to yet another experiment to prove that voluntarism is dead. Apparently the Government is more afraid of the irreconcilable faction in our midst than of the enemy. But after wasting another six weeks, that irreconcilable faction will be just as irreconcilable as ever. And meanwhile the white crosses multiply on the Western front and in Gallipoli.

### On the Serbian Front.

Here the war is being waged at a disadvantage to the Serbians, who are, however, fighting with such desperate valour as to surprise the invaders. The Quadruple Alliance's diplomacy collapsed with Bulgaria's decision to join the Central Powers. We at least owed it to Serbia to safeguard their communications, especially the Nish-Salonika railway, or how are our little Ally's armies to live and fight? But we have been able only to occupy Strumnitza. The other, Vranje, situated where the line curves towards the Bulgarian frontier, is in the hands of the enemy. Our immediate task should be to secure the Serbians on their flank, where they are certain to put up such

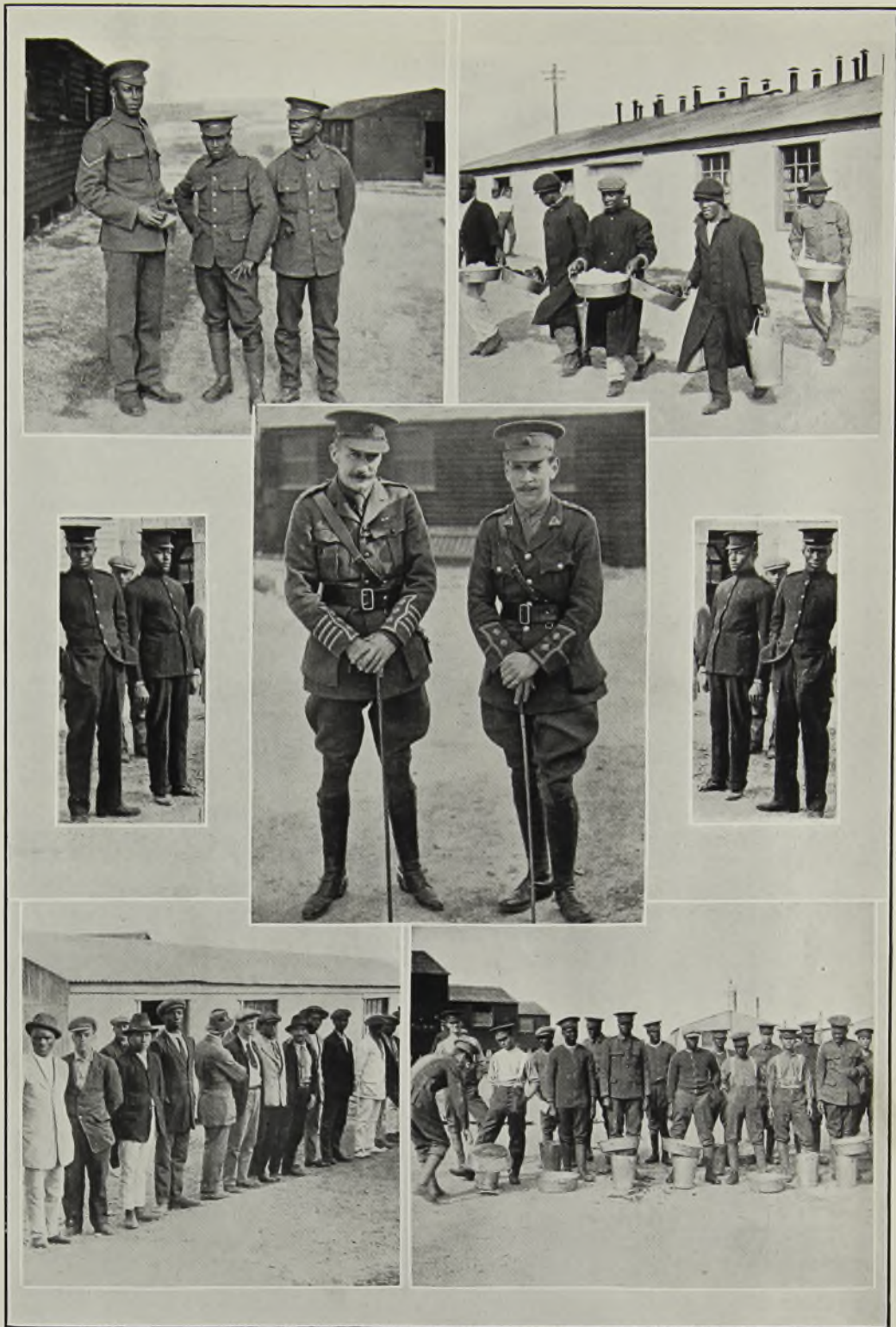
a stubborn resistance to the Austro-German armies as to gain time for the Quadruple Alliance to redeem its pledges to Serbia. But so far there is nothing to show we are able to do for her even that much. If not, she is bound to share the fate of Belgium and Poland, make terms with the Central Powers, or take to guerilla warfare. True, they cannot move their heaviest artillery in her mountainous territory, but Bulgarian help will more than compensate for that. As for the progress of the enemy, it is not likely to be as slow on this front as it was in Galicia after Mackensen forced the Russians to fall back from the Dunajec. For already the Austro-German and Bulgarian patrols are in touch, and Kragujevatz, the chief Serbian arsenal, is threatened. As the enemy holds all points on the Danube, munitions are being hurried to Turkey, first by river and then by rail, through Bulgaria. Or, in other words, Germany has established communication between herself and her ally in the Bosphorus.

As it is impossible to separate the Eastern front from the Balkans, the successful offensive of General Ivanoff on the Galician border is important. Last week he made a lightning stroke between Dubno and Tarnopol, capturing over 7,000 prisoners, and is able to maintain his ground. The Russians, who are bombarding Varna and Burgas, are evidently taking advantage of the withdrawal of Mackensen's armies to push forward their line in the Bukovina. The effect of their advance is to relieve Roumania of some of the pressure on her frontier, which, on their retreat into the Pripet marshes, was menaced from Orsova to Bessarabia. With the intervention of Bulgaria she was threatened on all sides. And then there are people who wonder why she has not joined the Allies.

### On the Western Front.

That the successful offensive by the British and French last month was a surprise to the enemy is confirmed by fresh evidence. So admirably were the plans of the Allies concealed that he prepared for an attack in Alsace, and as the front as a whole is thinly held, the sudden and overwhelming activity between La Bassée and Lens, as well as in Artois and Champagne, upset all his plans. So great was the confusion that it extended as far back as Brussels. Not only were reserves hurried up, so miscellaneous in character as to have no cohesion, but many of them were troops who had been sent to the rear for rest, and in getting them to the critical points of the fighting, the works of the German military machine here seem to have gone wrong badly.

The many and determined counter-attacks, with and without gas, he has made prove that he has lost strategical positions of value. Some of them have been partially successful, but for the most part complete failures. In Champagne, moreover, the French have advanced a step further to the railway which feeds the German armies in this sector by capturing a dangerous and strongly-fortified



## THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

The Officer Commanding, Colonel A. E. Barchard; the Adjutant, Lieut. A. P. J. Hibbert, and some men of the Regiment at Seaford Camp, Sussex.

*(Photographs by courtesy of the London News Agency Photo Co., Ltd.)*

salient known as Courtine, which they were unable to seize in the advance of September.

On the British front, armoured motors with new anti-aircraft guns stationed along our lines are doing effective service against German aircraft that endeavour to spy out our artillery positions. The enemy is learning that England, which led the world in mechanical invention before Germany entered the field at all, has not forgotten her cunning.

### On the Eastern Front.

In the north the struggle for Dyvinsk, whose intensity temporarily abated, has been resumed. Evidently the Germans were rearranging and strengthening their forces, and, so far from having withdrawn their siege artillery, as was believed in Petrograd, have brought up more, and of heavier calibre. They have captured Illukst, a village four miles west of the Dyvina, and ten miles north-west of the Dyvinsk bridge. In the Riga sector they are pursuing their offensive without intermission, and are now in a position from which they threaten the island of Dahlen, that affords facilities for the passage of the Misse, a river which runs parallel with the Dyvina. The island itself extends to the outskirts of Riga. Plainly the enemy has abandoned the idea of penetrating further into Russia, and with inexorable winter rapidly advancing, is fighting for a line which could easily be defended till the spring. But he is baulked of his intention by the vigour of the Russian defence. Our Ally has, however, made every preparation to evacuate Riga if necessary. The enemy, should they take it, will find it an empty shell.

### In the Dardanelles.

On the operations here public opinion is profoundly depressed. The Turks, who are past masters in the art of defence, continue to hold the Allied troops by means of improvised earth fortifications, combined with the devices of modern invention. The total casualties up to October 9th were 96,899, including 29,920 Australians and New Zealanders. General Sir Ian Hamilton, who was in command, has been recalled in order to place the facts of the situation before the authorities at home. He is succeeded by that fine old Indian soldier General Sir C. C. Munro.

At sea, the monitors, which were brought into action after the loss of five battleships, are a striking symbol to the enemy that he has no monopoly of mechanical invention. They are indeed marvels of ingenuity, perfectly adapted to conditions, carrying guns of a calibre not usually associated with shallow craft, besides aircraft guns. They combine the offensive and defensive powers of large vessels, though themselves little more than rafts, and are to all intents and purposes torpedo-proof.

### British Submarines in the Baltic.

Early in the war it was possible for Germany to say that she was able to control two seas—the Bal-

tic and the Sea of Marmora. To-day, owing to the activity of British submarines, she controls neither. They are doing in her own waters by legitimate methods what she tried to do in ours by out-pirating piracy at its worst. The volume of our trade and the length of our coast were too great for the number of submarines she possessed to make a blockade of this country anything but farcical apart from its frightfulness. But the German littoral is so restricted that its effective blockade in the Baltic by means of submarines is within sight. When the number of our vessels in this sea was small, they attacked warships and transports only, but their operations have extended as more of them were sent out, so that they are taking a larger toll of German merchant shipping than the toll that was taken of ours in the spring, and that averaged a ship a day. But whereas this rate was practically inappreciable in warfare against our commerce, it is, in the isolation of Germany from the water highways of the world, so considerable as almost to paralyse the passenger and cargo traffic between her Baltic ports and Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. Such ships as by their size render sailings profitable are convoyed by warships, though these are required for the protection of transports, several of which have been sunk by our submarines.

The enemy has had other losses at sea. A British submarine which was attacked by a cruiser and two torpedo-boats off the Swedish coast sank one. The account of the enemy, however, is that it was blown up by a mine. Near Libau another of our submarines, by brilliant manœuvring and resource, sank the cruiser *Prinz Adalbert*, sister ship of the *Friedrich Karl*, which was destroyed by the Russians last year. Most of the crew were drowned.

It is reported that the Russian army which was concentrated in Odessa recently is hurrying by sea to the help of Serbia. The transports in which it is being conveyed, together with the convoying squadron, are being attacked by the *Goben*, *Breslau*, and *Hamidich*, which have the advantage of the Russian ships in speed.

(To be continued.)

WE are informed that the business of the late Mr. C. W. Stevens, to whose death reference is made elsewhere, will be carried on on behalf of the Executor by Mr. George Parrott.

PROFESSOR BOTTOMLEY'S Humogen, or bacteris, deal, to which attention was drawn in the last issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, has been the subject of a question in the House of Commons. In reply to Mr. King, Mr. Acland, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, stated that practical experiments were being made with Humogen for horticultural and agricultural purposes, but that no results had been yet obtained which had demonstrated the utility of Humogen for agricultural purposes on a field scale and on a commercial basis.

## THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

### A Ladies' Committee Formed.

It has now been officially announced that the West Indian Contingent will be called the British West Indies Regiment.

The Fourth Meeting of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the Colonial Office on Friday, October the 22nd, at 4.30 p.m. Sir Everard in Thurn presided, and the members also present were: Sir James Hayes Sadler, Sir Francis Fleming, Sir Sydney Olivier, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.; Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Hon. Secretary), and Mr. Bernard Bonyun (Assistant Secretary). Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, of the Colonial Office, attended by invitation.

The Hon. Treasurers reported that donations amounting to £1,835 os. 6d. had been received in response to the Committee's appeal.

Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Aspinall, and Mr. Bonyun presented a report of a visit which they had paid to the North Camp, Seaford, on Friday, October 8th. The desirability of presenting to the British West Indies Regiment some band instruments, which were not provided by the War Office, and also Funds for establishing a Regimental Institute, were under discussion, but pending further consultation with Colonel Barchard, further consideration of both matters was deferred. The purchase of six additional bugles and an extra typewriter for the Orderly Room was approved. It was agreed to make a contribution to the Y.M.C.A. to defray the cost of concerts to be held in their hut on Saturday nights, Colonel Barchard having warmly supported this proposal. It was further agreed to provide the Regimental Reading Room with newspapers pending the receipt of a grant for the purpose from the War Office, and it was mentioned that, at the instance of the Committee, the Camps' Library had kindly sent to the Regiment 1,000 magazines and 500 six-shilling novels, with a promise of a further supply.

The desirability of forming a Ladies' Committee in connection with the West Indian Contingent was then considered, and the Chairman reported that Mr. R. Burbidge, on behalf of Messrs. Harrod's Stores, Ltd., had generously offered No. 5, Trevor Square, S.W., rent free, as the headquarters of such a Committee. A cordial vote of thanks having been passed to Mr. Burbidge, it was unanimously decided that the Ladies' Committee should be established, and that the Countess of Stamford be invited to be President. Miss Mary Moseley, Proprietor and Editor of the *Nassau Guardian*, having kindly offered her services, was appointed Hon. Secretary.

Sir Frederic Hodgson said that he had paid a visit to the Camp, and that he was very much pleased with the arrangements for the comfort of the men, who seemed happy and contented. He suggested that a master cook should be employed, and it was

decided to confer with Colonel Barchard on the subject.

Since we last went to press, the following contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
The Royal Bank of Canada ... ..	100	0	0
Messrs. H. K. Davson and Co. ... ..	26	5	0
Messrs. Jonas Brown and Son ... ..	25	0	0
H. Crum Ewing, Esq. ... ..	25	0	0
Major-General J. M. C. Galloway ... ..	10	10	0
Frederick N. Martinez ... ..	10	10	0
Geo. Carrington, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Donald S. L. Lee, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Randolph Rust, Esq., (earmarked for his Trinidad Artillerymen) ... ..	10	0	0
Sir Everard in Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B. ... ..	10	0	0
E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0
Ernest Sturridge, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0
Miss M. A. Anderson ... ..	5	0	0
Hector Court, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
W. H. M. Daniell ... ..	5	0	0
Sir A. P. King, K.C.B. ... ..	5	0	0
Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G. ... ..	5	0	0
Lady Llewelyn ... ..	5	0	0
Muntons, Ltd. ... ..	5	0	0
E. A. Robinson, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Miss M. H. Stodart ... ..	5	0	0
Hon. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G. ... ..	2	2	0
Mrs. Connie McGrath ... ..	2	2	0
Mrs. Louisa I. Ward ... ..	2	2	0
Dr. H. J. Welsley ... ..	2	2	0
Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G. ... ..	2	0	0
John E. Hewick, Esq. ... ..	2	0	0
Mrs. W. H. Watson ... ..	2	0	0
Miss C. E. Anderson ... ..	1	1	0
Lieut. Cyril W. Davson, R.G.A. ... ..	1	1	0
W. T. O. B. Hewitt, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Dr. Harold A. Moody ... ..	1	1	0
F. J. Morris, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G. ... ..	1	1	0
Miss Jolly ... ..	1	0	0
Miss E. M. Llewelyn ... ..	1	0	0
Miss Gladys Llewelyn ... ..	1	0	0
Lieut.-Commander R. H. Llewelyn, R.N. ... ..	1	0	0
S. B. Chandler, Esq., D.Sc. ... ..	10	0	0

The object of the Fund is to enable the Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort of the men of the Bermudian and West Indian Contingents, as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come over to fight for their King and Country. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

### The Fortnight at Seaford Camp.

Real hard work has been the order of the day, or, indeed, of the fortnight at Seaford Camp. Fortunately, West Indians are notoriously early risers. It is no hardship for them to be up and doing before daybreak, and when the Réveillé is sounded at 6 a.m. there are few laggards. The camp soon springs into life, and as soon as the men are dressed they set about the first task of the day, which consists of cleaning up quarters, and is performed with great thoroughness, each hut being subsequently inspected. At eight the men have their breakfast, a far more substantial meal than that to which they

have been accustomed in the West Indies. A succession of parades follows hourly until 1 p.m. As far as possible the men have been formed into platoons and companies representative of the colonies from which they come, and it may be confidently anticipated that there will be the keenest rivalry as to which becomes the crack company of the B.W.I.'s. At one o'clock the men sit down to their dinner, and in this connection it may be mentioned that Colonel Barchard, with his characteristic thoughtfulness, is sending ten men to the military cookery school, so that, good as the catering is now, it will be still better later on.

At the fashionable hour of five o'clock the men have their tea, after which they are at liberty to go into the town or wherever they like "in bounds." It is no disparagement to their appearance when they first landed to say that their deportment is very different now from what it was then. The men are fully conscious of the honour which they enjoy of wearing the King's uniform, and their military bearing and general demeanour shows that in no unmistakable way. The evening is generally spent in the recreation hut of the Y.M.C.A., which has become to the men a "home from home." At 9.30 the warning notes of the bugle-call known as the "First Post" are sounded, to be followed half an hour later by the "Last Post," when all the men must be in camp.

In their spare time the men enjoy nothing more than a good game of football, the rudiments of which they are rapidly picking up. In the recreation hut the small billiard table is in constant demand, and the game of draughts is particularly popular.

The Contingent Committee having provided funds to defray the cost of a weekly concert, the first of these entertainments was held in the Y.M.C.A. hut last Saturday night. Several hundred men were present, and they showed their enjoyment in no unmistakable manner. A correspondent who was present writes that it was a treat to see their faces, and a joy to hear their laughter. The artists and artistes admitted afterwards that they had never received such an ovation.

As stated elsewhere, the Contingent has now become "the British West Indies Regiment." No officers have been gazetted as yet, and while no doubt many of those who came over with the men will receive commissions, Colonel Barchard will need the assistance of officers of experience for the higher ranks. It will be readily understood that where a new regiment has to be formed the work is most arduous. Many things have to be thought of, and fresh problems are constantly arising; and in this connection Colonel Barchard is particularly fortunate in having as his Adjutant a young and energetic officer who was in the Army before the present war was thought of. He is fortunate, too, in having at his back a Committee to fill the many small requirements needed when a new regiment is formed.

During the fortnight the Regiment has lost one man by death, to which sad event reference is made

below. On the other hand, several West Indians lately resident in this country have been enlisted, and the latest arrivals from the West Indies are men from Barbados and from British Guiana.

The health of the Camp has on the whole been excellent, in spite of the inclement weather which has succeeded the Indian summer, as the late spell of fine weather which this country so often enjoys in the early autumn is called. There have been some colds, and it is to be regretted that Private Primo, of British Guiana, died of pneumonia at the Surrey Home on October 19th. That soldier, who has thus been deprived of his ambition to meet the Germans at the front, was laid to his rest on the following day with full military honours. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was taken to the cemetery on a gun-carriage, and there was a full military band in attendance. At the close of the sad ceremony a volley was fired over the grave, and the mournful notes of the "Last Post" were sounded by the bugler. The Chaplain stated that he had never witnessed a more impressive military funeral.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that the discipline of the North Camp is admirable, and the townsfolk speak highly of the conduct of the B.W.I.'s, who have established the most cordial relations with the other troops stationed at Seaford.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*Some further names of those connected with the West Indies who are serving their country are given below.*

- Arter, Captain Edward (son-in-law of Mr. Joshua de Cordova, late of Kingston, Jamaica), Army Service Corps.  
 Astwood, Lloyd (son of Mr. R. W. Astwood, Acting Island Treasurer, Jamaica), Naval Cadet.  
 Astwood, 2nd Lieut. Stuart (son of Mr. E. W. Astwood, Acting Island Treasurer, Jamaica), 14th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.  
 Beard, Lieut. Charles L. (son-in-law of Mr. F. Kemp, J.P., St. Andrews, Jamaica), Royal Canadian Navy. H.M.S. *Tartar*.  
 Derret, Nurse Constance (of Jamaica), British Red Cross.  
 Edwards, Lieut. C. R. (District Medical Officer, St. Andrews, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 Gadpaille, Louis (of Jamaica), Air Mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps.  
 Greenidge, Philip R. (third son of Mr. T. R. Greenidge, of St. John, Barbados), Royal Welsh Fusiliers.  
 Hill, Percy S. (son of Mr. J. H. Hill, Clerk of the Courts, St. Ann's, Jamaica), 7th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.  
 Hoad, W. E. (son of Mr. George Hoad, of the late firm of John Hoad and Co.), 35th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery.  
 Jones, 2nd Lieut. E. Packer (of Killarney, Westmorland, Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.  
 Keeling, 2nd Lieut. O. H. (of Spanish Town, Jamaica), Royal Engineers.  
 Meredith, Arthur R. (son of the Rev. A. W. Meredith, St. Andrews, Jamaica), 51st Soo Rifles, Canadian Contingent.  
 Moody-Stuart, 2nd Lieut. Mark (Manager of the Usine Ste Madeleine, Trinidad), Northumbrian Royal Field Artillery.

Kiddiek, Private L. C. (of Demerara), 11th South Wales Borderers.

### Killed in Action.

SECOND LIEUT. A. CRUM EWING, who has been missing since December last must, it is feared, be now included in the list of those killed in action. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Humphry Crum Ewing, he was educated at Mr. Booker's House at Eton, and joined the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders immediately after the outbreak of war. From them he was attached to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, with which regiment he went to the front. He fell on the morning following the attack on Givenchy (December 22) leading his men in an unsuccessful attack on the German trenches. Major J. W. Sandilands, in a letter from the front, wrote:

"The Brigade Major, Jullander Brigade, has told me that he was very much struck with 2nd Lieut. Crum Ewing's behaviour during the attack on Monday. He considers that he displayed great courage and qualities of leadership which you could not have expected from a boy of his age."

Major H. Hill, M.V.O., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Brigade Major of the Jullander Brigade, British Expeditionary Force, in a letter to the Colonel of the Cameron Highlanders, with reference to the operations at Givenchy village on 21st December, 1914, wrote:—

"I met the right of the Camerons going up to Givenchy as I was coming away from there. I went back again to Givenchy with Crum Ewing to put him in touch with the 1st Manchester Regiment, who were then in Givenchy. I was much struck with Crum Ewing's behaviour there. He had two platoons and came under quite a heavy fire in a place he had never seen before, and amongst people he did not know. He was, however, all there, and quite equal to the occasion. He got hold of his men and led them in fine style. The reason I was so much struck with him was because he looked so young that I thought he must have quite recently joined. When I got back to Font Fize I saw the O.C. London Scottish and mentioned to him about Crum Ewing, and afterwards on Tuesday, 22nd, I spoke to General Lowther about him. I was extremely sorry to see afterwards he was among the missing. I hope you will hear of him again as he was a dashed good lad."

Consequent upon this report Lieut. A. Crum Ewing was mentioned in despatches by Sir John French in June.

### LIEUTENANT LESLIE WINGFIELD ESCOTT.

Lieutenant Leslie Wingfield Escott, who was killed in action at Bellewaarde Farm, France, on September 25th, was the youngest son of Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, Governor of Fiji, and late Governor of the Leeward Islands. He joined the 5th Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry at the outbreak of war. He met his death whilst leading a bombing party to the assault of the farm.

### LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. H. NEALE.

With reference to the late Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Neale, who, as stated in the CIRCULAR of October 5th (where he was wrongly described as Major), was killed in action in September last, a correspondent writes: Lieut.-Colonel George Henry Neale, 3rd Middlesex Regiment, was the eldest surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Neale, of 37, De Vere Gardens, W. (late of Reigate), and grandson of the late Sir George H. Chambers. Born in January, 1869, he received his first commission in the Royal West Surrey Regiment from the Militia in January, 1891, and became major in the Middlesex Regiment in June, 1911, and temporary lieutenant-colonel last May. In 1897 he served on the Niger with the expeditions to Egbon, Bida, and Ilorin (medal with clasp). He was also with the Tirah Expeditionary Force in 1897-8 (medal with two clasps) and in Waziristan in 1902. As a transport officer he served in Tibet in 1903-4 and was mentioned in despatches. A memorial service was held at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, on the 9th October, conducted by the Vicar

of Kensington and the Rev. F. C. Chambers, Vicar of Hammer, Salop (uncle). The band of the Middlesex Regiment attended, and at the conclusion of the service played Chopin's Funeral March. The Last Post was sounded by buglers from the altar steps.

### MAJOR G. F. MOLINEUX-MONTGOMERIE.

Major George Frederick Molineux-Montgomery, 3rd Grenadier Guards, of Garboldisham, Norfolk, who we regret to state, was killed in France on Oct. 22, was the only son of the late Cecil Thomas Molineux-Montgomery, of Garboldisham, formerly of the Grenadier Guards. He was born in September, 1869, and educated at Eton. From 1891 to 1900 he was major, Grenadier Guards, and regimental adjutant from 1900 to 1909. In 1911 he became brigade-major, Norfolk and Suffolk Infantry Brigade, a post which he held for two years. After leaving the army Major Molineux-Montgomery took a close interest in Molineux Estate in St. Kitts, which he inherited from his father, and he was a member of the West India Committee. He married in 1901 Sybil Mary Blanche, daughter of Mr. Charles Bruce Henry-Somerset, and leaves one daughter.

### Died of Sickness.

Captain David Jackson, of the 6th Battalion Royal Scots, who died on September 3rd, at Didsbury, after a short illness, was formerly a Sub-Inspector in the Jamaica Constabulary.

### CAPTAIN HERBERT MADDICK.

Captain Herbert Maddick, of the 5th Irish Lancers, who, we regret to state died of typhoid fever at St. Thomas' Hospital on October 27th one hour after arriving from the Dardanelles, spent some years in Jamaica as A.D.C. to the Governor, the late Sir Augustus Hemming. He was the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Maddick, of South Bank House, Surbiton. He was married to the Marquesa de Torre-Hermosa, who survives him. In 1903, when Jamaica was visited by a severe hurricane and a fund amounting to upwards of £6,597 was raised by the West India Committee for the relief of the sufferers, Captain Maddick offered his services to the Executive and devoted his time during many weeks towards assisting the fund.

### Wounded.

Second Lieut. Guy Frounault Cameron (son of His Excellency the Hon. Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, and late Administrator of St. Lucia), of the 6th Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, was wounded in the battle round Hill 70. It was first officially reported that he had been killed, but just before his father left for Gambia a letter was received from him. It seems that he was wounded on Sunday, Sept. 26, and lay in the mud and rain until the following Tuesday night, when he was picked up alive and taken to a field ambulance. Since then he has been seriously ill, the wound having affected his lung. He is now in hospital in France and is, we are glad to learn, improving in health daily.

Stockdale, Sergeant P. G. (brother of Mr. F. A. Stockdale, late of British Guiana, and now Director of Agriculture in Mauritius), 27th Canadian Light Horse, was wounded on April 30th near Ypres, and is now convalescent in England.

Wolffsohn, Corporal Arthur Norman (son of the Hon. S. Wolffsohn, M.L.C.), 2/3rd Scottish Horse, has been wounded at the front, and is now in St. George's Hospital.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Cooper, P. M., A.M.I.C.E. (of Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.  
Lewis, Lance-Corporal J. H. (son of Mr. J. W. Lewis, of Barbados), The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, has been promoted Lance-Corporal.

**Prisoner of War.**

Webster, Private C. F. (son of Mr. H. C. Webster, of Bridgetown, Barbados), 3rd Batt. Canadian Expeditionary Force. *Prisoner of War at Paderborn, Germany.*

**Information wanted.**

The Editor will be obliged if readers of the CIRCULAR can inform him what regiments the undermentioned officers and men are serving in at the present time and what rank they hold.

Andrews, K. D., of Jamaica.  
 Abrahams, Cyril, of Jamaica.  
 Alexander, Ralph, of Grenada.  
 Ansell, L., of British Guiana.  
 Baggett-Gray, and Lieut. C., of Jamaica.  
 Barrow, Allan, of Jamaica.  
 Beckford, R. P., of Jamaica.  
 Brock, Clarence C., of Jamaica.  
 Clarke, Sergt. Damerall, of British Guiana.  
 Clarke, Sergt. G., of Jamaica.  
 Coe, R. H., of Jamaica.  
 Coke-Kerr, W. L., of Jamaica.  
 Collins, and Lieut. R. R., of Jamaica.  
 Cowper, R. C., of Jamaica.  
 Cox, R. H., of Jamaica.  
 D'Agnilar, W., of Jamaica.  
 de Janbenque, Charles, of St. Lucia.  
 Ewe, R. H., of Jamaica.  
 Farquharson, W. H., of Jamaica.  
 Forrest, Mr., of Antigua.  
 Harty, Frank, of Jamaica.  
 Jacobs, Leslie C., of Jamaica.  
 Johns, V. R., of Jamaica.  
 Kemble, and Lieut. C. S., of Jamaica.  
 Kirkwood, Abram G., of Jamaica.  
 Levy, Vincent C., of Jamaica.  
 Mackinnon, A. J., of Jamaica.  
 Manley, N. W., of Jamaica.  
 Masson, Private James, of British Honduras.  
 Mattheson, Private H., of British Honduras.  
 Matthews, S. W., of Trinidad.  
 Matur, P. S., of British Guiana.  
 McDermott, Issett, of Jamaica.  
 McDonald, Mr. C., of British Guiana.  
 McDonald, Percival L., of Jamaica.  
 McLellan, G. H. H., of British Guiana and Barbados.  
 McPhail, Harry, of St. Lucia.  
 Midelton, R. W., of British Guiana.  
 Mitchell, A., of Trinidad.  
 Mills, David, of Jamaica.  
 Morales, R., of Jamaica.  
 Morgan, C. F., of Jamaica.  
 Murray, Aubrey S., of Jamaica.  
 Parker, H., of British Guiana.  
 Riddell, G. S. St. Elmo, of Jamaica.  
 Robinson, Lieut. Cyril.  
 Roper, Captain C. L., of Jamaica.  
 Shirley, A. E. R., of Jamaica.  
 Sidney, T.  
 Simpson, Lieut., of Jamaica.  
 Simpson, R., of Trinidad.  
 Sintzenick, W. T. C., of Jamaica.  
 Smith, J., of Jamaica.  
 Smith, Trotwood H., of Jamaica.  
 Smythe, Darley, of Jamaica.  
 Smythe, William J., of Jamaica.  
 Sorzana, L., of Tobago.  
 Stuart-Campbell, Lieut. L., of Jamaica.  
 Taaffe, H., of Jamaica.  
 Tilley, E. L., of Jamaica.  
 Tulle, F. A. L., of Jamaica.  
 Turrill, and Lieut. Vivian, of Demerara.  
 Underwood, R. L. A., of British Guiana.  
 Wiggin, Julian S. W., of Jamaica.

**WEST INDIAN GIFTS.****The Trinidad Fighter Aeroplane.**

The most notable "war gift" received from the West Indies since we last went to press is a Fighter Aeroplane for the use of the Royal Flying Corps, which has been presented to the Government by the Members of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated.

This handsome gift is the outcome of a suggestion made by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, President, and Mr. John H. Smith, the Vice-President of the Chamber, who convened a meeting of the Members at the News Room on October 1st. In their letter inviting the support of their colleagues they said:—

"Whilst there is much to be thankful for and much to be proud of in the achievements of our Army and Navy it becomes increasingly evident from the information which reaches us from the centre of the Empire and from the recorded utterances of public men that very much more remains still to be done, that both men and money will have to be abundantly forthcoming if the freedom enjoyed by British subjects for centuries past is not to be replaced by German militarism and German savagery, and for these reasons it is hoped that you will make a special effort to attend and do your utmost to assist in this good work."

The response was prompt and generous. Mr. Gordon Gordon and Mr. John Smith headed the list with donations of £800 and £400 respectively, and £1,600 was subscribed in the room. A few days later the Hon. Adam Smith, the Secretary of the Chamber, was able to send a draft for £2,250, being the total cost of the warplane, to the Secretary of the West India Committee, who had made the necessary arrangements with the War Office with regard to the presentation.

The Army Council, which has accepted the gift, are having a brass plate affixed to the fighter aeroplane which will bear an inscription stating that it was presented by "the Members of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated."

It will be recalled that Dominica was the first colony to present an aeroplane to the Government. Thanks to the enterprise of the Overseas Club, no fewer than thirty-six more have been forthcoming from various parts of the Empire, and as we go to press we learn that Jamaica has added a fighter aeroplane to the Imperial fleet.

From Miss K. Bolton, daughter of Mr. Harold E. Bolton, of Gordon Town, Jamaica, the West India Committee have received for the Blue Cross Fund £9, being the proceeds of some amateur theatricals. This fund, it may be mentioned, has been raised by Our Dumb Friends' League for supplying horse comforts and veterinary requisites for the home and expeditionary forces.

**Seven Thousand Cases of Fruit.**

The number of cases of fruit presented to the Army Council by planters in Dominica, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, and distributed on their

behalf by the West India Committee, now amounts to over 7,000. The SS. *Camito* (September 26th), *Coronado* (October 11th), and *Cavina* (October 23rd) brought from the Jamaica Agricultural Society 321 packages of oranges, grape-fruit, limes and lemons, clothing, cigars, cigarettes, and preserves, besides a bag of pimento, which, at the instance of Colonel the Hon. E. Moulton Barrett, is to be experimented with as a heating factor in soldiers' rations, and perhaps also in a powdered form in trench boots.

The R.M.S. *Mexico* landed at Liverpool on October 1st 298 cases of limes and oranges and seven cases of coco-nut oil from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee; 22 packages of limes and oranges from the Dominica Agricultural Society, and four barrels of fruit sent per Messrs. Martin, Dean & Co., Grenada, and a case of clothing comforts for soldiers from Mrs. Brodie. This consignment was dealt with by Mr. W. Speed, the Secretary of the West India Association of Liverpool, to whom the thanks of the donors and the West India Committee are due.

On October 7th the R.M.S. *Magdalena* arrived at Tilbury, bringing 104 cases of limes and oranges from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, and 20 packages of limes and oranges from the Dominica Agricultural Society.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the undermentioned gifts for the B.W.I.'s:—

24 packs of cards from Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock.  
30 shirts and 30 pairs of socks from Mrs. Moody Stuart.  
1,000 magazines and 500 novels from Camps Library, and a promise of a further supply.  
The loan of No. 5, Trevor Square, rent free, by Messrs. Harrods Stores, Ltd.

THE gift of a bag of Demerara sugar made by the West Indian Produce Association to the Y.M.C.A. Hut at Seaford Camp has evidently been much appreciated. Mr. Taylor writes that the men are very "heavy handed" in the use of sugar, and they much prefer "Demerara" to any other—and they are good judges, too.

SOME further conclusions have been arrived at as to the silk worm industry by Mr. M. N. De at Pusa, in India. These are that imported univoltine eggs should be reared in preference to indigenous races; that univoltine eggs hatched by artificial stimuli do not give satisfactory results; that worms reared outdoors on trees yield less silk but are more resistant to disease than those bred indoors. The tree worms are admirably adapted for reproductive purposes, but the method of rearing is very expensive. Attempts are being made to establish a fixed multivoltine race which would not degenerate, but up to the date of the report these had not been attended with success.

## THE ST. LUCIA LIME FACTORY.

### The Cost of Production of "Concentrated."

IN the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of November 3rd last an account was given of the St. Lucia Government Lime Factory which had been erected in March.

The factory having now been working for a full season, it is possible to give some information regarding its operations. Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, the local Agricultural Superintendent, in his annual report states that working at 1 h.p. the mill, which is run by an Ellis 3 h.p. oil engine, crushes 10 barrels of limes per hour. In actual practice it is therefore capable of dealing with 80 barrels of limes daily. Before this quantity can, however, be handled, certain additions will have to be made to other units of the plant. The present evaporators are only capable of dealing with juice equivalent to about 50 barrels per day. The cost of oil fuel worked out at the rate of 17½d. per cask (42 gallons) of concentrated juice testing 107.3 oz. per gallon.

An average juice extraction of 8 gallons per barrel of limes was obtained throughout the year. This is a very satisfactory extraction when it is remembered that the fruit purchased at the factory is of the poorest quality, being obtained from all sorts of odd places, and often stored for several days before reaching the mill. The acidity of the raw juice handled averaged 12.3 oz. per gallon, and ranged from 11.4 to 13.8 oz. per gallon. A total of 1,180 barrels of limes was crushed during the year.

The still successfully dealt with 400 gallons of raw juice daily, in four charges of 100 gallons each. The average time taken in handling each charge was one and a half hours. The yield of essential oil obtained was equal to 8 oz. per gallon of juice, or 7.4 oz. per barrel of limes, about one-half of the total quantity of limes from which this juice had been obtained had been previously centelled.

In addition to subsiding the whole of the juice previous to concentrating, efforts were made throughout the crop to reduce impurities in the finished juice. The main difficulty to be overcome was the reduction of sediment without any appreciable loss of acid. This has now been accomplished; and on two occasions two 62-gallon strikes were obtained with a sediment test of less than 1 per cent. as against the usual 20 to 30 per cent. The average working test of sediment has now been reduced to between 2½ to 3 per cent. The practical result of this work is clearly shown in the appearance of the juice and in the good prices which were maintained throughout the year in advance of the usual market quotations. This has shown that a high standard juice with a sediment test not exceeding 5 per cent. can be regularly turned out by any of the steam boiling plants in St. Lucia. The average degree of concentration was approximately 9 to 1 and the average test of prepared juice was 107.3 oz. of citric acid per gallon. No difficulty was experienced in keeping the wooden evaporators and still, water-



tight, throughout the year. The steam connexions gave a good deal of trouble owing to faulty erection, and as it was undesirable to close the factory during the crop to enable permanent repairs to be undertaken, continuous minor repairs had to be carried out.

The expenses incurred in the manufacture of one cask of 42 gallons concentrated lime juice testing 107.3 oz. per gallon, and yielding also 19 lb. of distilled oil, are given below. These figures are based on last year's work at the Government Lime Juice Factory, and although these figures are obtained as the result of working on a small scale under somewhat unusual conditions, the total may provisionally be considered representative of the industry in St. Lucia. It will be noticed that the extra charges resulting from the war are considerable:—

	£	s.	d.
Labour (including boiling, repairs, etc.)	...	5	11½
Coal	...	11	3½
Oil for engine	...	1	5½
Packages	...	4	9
Contingencies, including chemicals, oil for lighting, cleaning materials, stamps on bills of lading etc.	...	2	0½
Total local expenses	...	18	5½
Sale of produce	...	1	15 0
	...	3	0 5½
Less extra charges due to war	...	13	11
	...	2	6 6½

**OBITUARY.**

**MR. EDWARD A. AGAR.**

With deep regret we have to announce that Mr. E. A. Agar died at his residence, La Haut, Dominica, on Friday, October 22nd.

Mr. Agar's death comes as a shock to all who knew him, for it was quite unexpected, the mail having brought two of his usual bright and optimistic letters which are published in another column. It appears that he was taken seriously ill with fever on or about October 19th. A cablegram received on the following Thursday stated that he was much better and was out of danger. Presumably he suffered a relapse for on the following day came the news of his death. Mr. Agar, who was educated at Winchester, was, with his brother, Mr. A. K. Agar, among the new settlers who went out to Dominica in 1903 attracted by the possibilities of the island which were being vigorously advertised by the then Administrator, Mr. (now Sir) Hesketh Bell. He established himself at La Haut, near Roseau, and at the time of his death was the proprietor of a prosperous lime estate which he had built up.

In spite of his agricultural activities he found time to take some part in the public life of the island, sitting on the Board of Assessors for Income Tax. With his brother, he was one of the founders of the Dominica Agricultural Society, after filling the post of Chairman of the Planters' Association. But it is as an Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee, a position which he has filled since 1899, that he will best be known in the West Indies generally. He was a conscientious and regular correspondent, and it is not too much to say that his valued letters have contributed in no small degree to the better knowledge of the needs and requirements of Dominica which is now manifested in official as well as unofficial circles at home. Mr. Agar's death will be a great loss to the community in the island which he made his home, and also to the West India Committee. He was married in 1890 to Miss Grace Ogilvie, of Roseau, who with two sons

and three daughters, with whom much sympathy will be felt in their sudden bereavement, survives him.

**MR. CHARLES T. BRUCE.**

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Charles T. Bruce, which took place on October 23rd at 13, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, S.W.

Mr. Charles T. Bruce, who was fifty years of age, died of typhoid fever, which he contracted whilst doing his duty as Commandant of a field hospital in Flanders. He was the eldest son of the late Hon. Charles Thomas Bruce, and grandson of the 7th Earl of Elgin. He was twice married, firstly to Edith, daughter of the late Mr. S. Sandbach Parker, of Aigburth, Liverpool, by whom he leaves a son, Robert, and secondly to Gwendolen, daughter of Mr. R. T. M. Speir and the Hon. Mrs. Speir of Culdees, Perthshire, who survives him. Mr. Bruce was for some years a member of the Committee of the West Indian Club, and at the time of his death was a member of the Club and of the West India Committee, and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the Colonial Nursing Association.

**MR. CHARLES W. STEVENS.**

We regret to state that Mr. Charles William Stevens died at his residence, Ashmount, Colney Hatch Lane, N., on October 28th.

Mr. Stevens, who was 59 years of age, was for some years with the firm of Messrs. Henry Langridge and Company, and eventually started a West Indian business on his own account at 16, Great St. Helens. He represented the firms of Messrs. Leacock and Co., Barbados, Messrs. Wieting and Richter, British Guiana, and Messrs. Gordon Grant and Co., Ltd., of Trinidad. Mr. Stevens was buried at St. Marylebone Cemetery on November 1st, after a funeral service at St. James's, Muswell Hill.

**MR. CHARLES WILSON.**

A correspondent writes that Mr. Charles Wilson was aged 70 at death. He was trained with the late well-known firm of makers of sugar machinery, Messrs. Blaikie Bros., of Aberdeen, and it was in their interests that he resided in Martinis for seven years and visited other cane-growing countries. Returning to Aberdeen he became manager and afterwards partner of Messrs. Blaikie Bros. for a number of years. Leaving Aberdeen he then settled in London as the London Manager of the Chatteris Engineering Co., and representative of the Mirrlees Watson Co., Ltd., of Glasgow.

**AT WESTMINSTER.**

**The Cacao Duties.**

On the consideration of the Finance Bill in Committee of the House of Commons on October 19th, Mr. Thomas Lough again drew attention to the differential treatment afforded to cocoa as compared with tea. Most of our tea was, he said, of British production, while much of our cocoa came from foreign countries. The history of the tax on cocoa during the last few years had been rather curious. The tax was reduced in 1911 by a small amount. At that time the annual consumption was 51,000,000 lbs., and the tax upon it produced £380,000. Owing to the reduction in that year the consumption of cocoa in 1914 rose to 63,000,000 lbs., whereas the tax produced only £341,000, so that the consumption increased by 25 per cent, and the tax produced less than in the preceding year. The right hon. Gentleman only proposed to add ½d. per lb to the cocoa duty. It was worth seriously considering whether the tax on cocoa should not be put on the same level as that on tea. Such an increased tax would not press unduly on anyone. There was no question of Protection or Free Trade involved. If the tax on cocoa were raised 6d. per lb. the right hon. Gentleman might get at least a million out of it, and if it were put at 1s. he might perhaps get two millions or more. From his, Mr. Lough's, little know-

ledge of the trade he could say that cocoa was an article which could stand this duty better than tea.

Sir J. D. Rees said he had figures to show that in 1914 94,000,000 lbs. of cocoa, 1,000,000 cwt. of coffee, and 27,000,000 lbs. of manufactured cocoa were introduced into this country. A very large revenue could be raised if these very large imports were taxed at the same rate as tea. Cocoa was far more of a luxury than tea, being the basis of chocolates and sweetmeats which rotted the teeth of our future soldiers and their wives and children.

Mr. McKenna said that as regard cocoa consumed as a drink, a very small proportion, of what his right hon. Friend referred to was consumed, and we should not get any such figure of revenue as he suggested merely by putting up the duty on cocoa that was drunk. In dealing with these taxes, which had all been classed together, the Government had proceeded on the principle of adding 50 per cent. to them. It might not be a good principle, but it was a rough-and-ready principle, and one that the Customs could very easily work. With respect to the duty on cocoa used in chocolate, it was through the Sugar Duty that the consumer of chocolate was made to pay.

The clause increasing the cocoa duties by 50 per cent. as originally proposed was then agreed to.

#### The Increased Sugar Duties.

The Clause of the Finance Bill imposing the increased sugar duties was the subject of a much longer debate. Mr. Theodore Taylor moved an amendment with the object of raising the point whether we were now going to establish as statutory law the principle of a wide differential charge between the home product and the imported product. That was a very vital point. He objected to the sugar duty altogether as it was a duty on a raw material and a necessity of life. He wished now to see the Customs and Excise duties assimilated. At present the sugar coming into the country was to be taxed exactly a 1d. a lb. under the Finance Bill, and the sugar made at home was to be taxed 3s. 4d. a cwt.

Mr. McKenna said that his hon. Friend was quite aware that there was a Customs duty of 1s. 10d. on sugar, and no Excise duty. Therefore it was already a recognition by the law of a different rate of Customs and Excise duty on sugar. He was not entitled, therefore, to regard this as the beginning of a new principle. The only difference to be considered now was the difference between the present proposal and what existed before, which was that whereas there was a Customs duty of 1s. 10d. and no Excise duty, there was now proposed a Customs duty of 9s. 4d. and an Excise duty of 2s. That was the whole difference now.

His right hon. Friend had accepted the statement in the past that sugar production in this country was so trifling that to leave out the imposition of Excise was quite a possible procedure. The sugar development in this country was to-day no greater than it was. It still remained something like 3,000 tons a year, or little over the consumption of half a day, out of a total consumption of anything between 1,700,000 and 1,800,000 tons. In the past it had not been thought worth while to impose any Excise duty upon a trade which was so insignificant. It was not worth it. He was unfortunately bound by the conditions of the

#### Brussels Sugar Convention

under which a duty could not be imposed upon the import of sugar greater than 2s. 6d. in excess of the Excise duty, and he was therefore bound to impose an Excise duty. His hon. Friend said, "If you are bound now to impose an Excise duty under the Brussels Convention, why do you not make it the same duty as the import duty?" A very reasonable and proper argument, but there is a very reasonable and proper answer. People who had been conducting this experiment—it was nothing more—had been conducting it under great difficulties and with no very large profit. If they imposed the same Excise now as the Customs duty they destroyed the experiment absolutely in a moment. Was that a wise thing to do? He was not dealing now with the general principles for all time of taxa-

tion by Customs and by Excise. He was dealing with the conditions of this moment under the circumstances of the War, and he was bound to say it would not seem a wise and prudent proceeding at this moment to destroy an experiment in which a great deal of money had been spent and which was producing a certain modicum of sugar. For that reason he proposed to the Committee that there should be an Excise duty as much lower than the Customs duty as the Brussels Convention would allow him to impose, but on general grounds the whole industry was so insignificant the whole production was so small, that if we were free to do so he would be disposed to recommend to the House to take no notice of it.

Sir Alfred Mond said that it was obvious that the right hon. Gentleman was setting a precedent. Did he really suggest that the 2s. 4d. would come off at some future date and that the experiment if it did not develop was going to be slaughtered by some more merciless person than himself.

Mr. Outhwaite complained that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was selling the Free Trade pass. Mr. Peto, on the other hand, congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his sane and common-sense attitude. The debate was continued by Mr. Williams and Mr. Montagu, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who said though up till now the Legislature had never thought it worth while bothering about an Excise as the beet-growing experiments had been so small. There had been constant appeals for grants from the Development Fund which the Government had been unable to accede to. The Excise duty was now imposed because of the Brussels Sugar Convention. We had left the Convention but we had undertaken to adhere not to give a Bounty to home-grown sugar. The Government had, therefore, imposed an Excise duty in order to conform with that undertaking. If they had not done so any of the parties to the Convention would have had a right to contend that our sugar-containing goods made in this country might have been made from Bounty-fed sugar, and might have penalised the exports.

Mr. Thomas Lough asked whether the Brussels Convention was still alive, "that monstrous enactment, that arrangement made with our enemies, Austria and Germany, which had cost this country millions of money."

Mr. Chaplin stoutly defended the differentiation, and asked if it would not have been much better to have grown the £18,000,000 worth of sugar, which had been bought by His Majesty's Government, in our own country.

The amendment moved by Mr. Goulston to leave out the clause altogether was not pressed to a division, and the resolution that the clause relating to the sugar duties stand part of the Bill was put and agreed to.

MUCH dissatisfaction has been expressed in Demerara at the poor results from the first year's working of the Government Steamer Service, as exhibited by a statement of receipts and expenditure recently issued by the Government authorities. Estimates of cost in original expenditure and working expenses have been exceeded, and the receipts have not come up to expectations. The Polderoyen Ferry Service, wrested from Sproston's, the former contractors, by lawsuit, having resulted in a loss, the service has been abandoned, to the inconvenience of many residents on the west bank of the Demerara River. It is only fair to point out, however, that the establishment of the Government Steamer Service has increased travelling facilities by the reduction of fares; but, naturally, the general taxpayers who are not frequent travellers object to pay for those who are, in regard to the cost of maintaining the service.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

MESSRS. PAINES & REID, Produce Brokers, of 32, Fenchurch Street, E.C., have admitted into partnership Mr. A. B. Blencowe, who has been with the firm for a number of years.

COMMODORE LIONEL HALSEY, while thanking the Jamaica Agricultural Society for a gift of banana figs for the Grand Fleet, writes that the fruit was distributed among the ships' companies of the various ships of the Grand Fleet, and that it was immensely appreciated.

MR. ROBERT BRYSON, of Antigua, is the latest recruit to the ranks of voluntary munitions workers. An adept at the use of the lathe and mechanical work generally, Mr. Bryson early won promotion to an important position in the works to which he now gives eight hours of his time every day.

MR. T. LESLIE JARVIS has cut his leave short to take up the position of Acting Commissioner of Montserrat, to which he has been appointed in succession to Captain Elgee. Mr. Jarvis, who was last stationed in the Virgin Islands, is no stranger to Montserrat, where he enjoys great popularity.

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER, K.C.M.G., late Governor of Jamaica, and now Secretary to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, will read a paper on "The Recent Development of Jamaica, Internal and External," at the Royal Society of Arts on Tuesday, November 30th, at 2.30 p.m., when Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., will preside.

THE engagement is announced between Edward William Baynes, Home Civil Service, late Colonial Service, Dominica, elder son of the late Edward H. R. A. Baynes, Commissioner of Montserrat, and Laura Margaret, second daughter of H. O. Foster, of Abbotsford, St. Margarets-on-Thames, late of Java.

MR. F. H. WATKINS, late Colonial Secretary of the Windward Islands, who has for some months been working in the Censor's Department, left by the *Magdalena* for Montserrat, where he proposes to spend the winter. Mr. Watkins was Commissioner of the island from 1900 to 1906, and will no doubt have received a cordial welcome there on his return.

It would be hard to imagine a statement more damaging to the Oil Well Supply Company than that which has appeared in the Press to the effect that the notorious Max Breitung is Secretary and Treasurer of the concern. We are advised by the London Manager that Breitung has no connection whatever with the Company, and is not known to the Directors.

WE much regret to learn that M. Lucien Dureau, Officer in the French Artillery, and son of M.

Georges Dureau, the Managing Director of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, was killed in action in Champagne on the night of September 30th or early morning of October 1st. Much sympathy will be felt with M. Dureau in the loss which he has sustained.

MR. E. W. HUTTON, writing from a hospital in France, makes an earnest appeal for Venezuelan "Alpargatas," leather-soled, canvas-topped slippers, so commonly used in Trinidad, for the use of the men in his hospital. The sizes should be 7, 8, and 9, and the "Alpargatas" should be sent to the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE many friends in the West Indies of the Bishop of Guiana will be glad to learn that he is now quite restored to health. Five weeks at Brighton, following on the beneficial effects of the voyage home, quite set him up. He has since been visiting at Bournemouth, Leamington, and Oxford, and is now looking for a convenient steamer sailing during the latter part of November for his return to Demerara.

A TIX of Spring Lobster from Mr. Silly's Lobster Canning Factory in the Caicos Islands was recently sampled by a member of the staff of the CIRCULAR, with most favourable results. The lobster was pronounced to be excellent as to both flavour and quality. Mr. Silly, who is looking out for a partner, considers 900 to 1,100 lobsters per day a good catch, and believes that the industry is capable of great developments in the immense shallow water creek which he leases from the Government.

THE R.M.S.P. *Quillota* is expected to leave London on November 12th for Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, Puerto Colombia, and Colon. First-class passengers only will be carried at the following reduced rates:—Barbados, Trinidad or Jamaica, £25; Puerto Colombia or Colon, £30. In the event of return ticket holders wishing to avail themselves of the *Quillota* for ports other than the ship's ports of call, passengers will be accepted, but connections with other steamers to which they may desire to transfer cannot be guaranteed.

MR. G. E. GRABHAM is leaving for British Honduras on November 6th, accompanied by his wife, to take up the duties of Manager of Belize Estate and Produce Company. Mr. Grabham, who, like his predecessor, the late Mr. Alan Dridge, gained his experience in the East, was with the West's Patent Press Company, a cotton growing and baling concern, whose activities extend all over India. Mr. and Mrs. Grabham had hoped to have been accompanied by their daughter, but she is to be married on Thursday next to Mr. A. B. Selwyn, a lieutenant in the 12th Lancers, Indian Army Reserve, and incidentally it may be mentioned brother of the Warden of Radley. Mr. Selwyn is at present attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

THE award by a jury of £10 10s. damages in Mr. Justice Ridley's Court to a schoolboy who, through his father, sued the headmaster of Radley for caning him for outstaying his leave, recalls a recent *cause celebre* in Barbados, which cost the taxpayers in that island about £275. Those connected with the island will remember that that sum was awarded to a local merchant whose son was expelled from Harrison College for breaking his leave with his father's consent so that he might attend a race-meeting, and that the damages were subsequently paid by the local education authority. The case just decided in London was very much on all fours with the Barbados one, though the Radley boy had stronger grounds for absentsing himself by his parents' orders, namely, the desire that he might see his brother before he left on active service. In this case a stay of execution has been granted in view of appeal, and further proceedings will, no doubt, be watched with close interest in Barbados, whose Chief Justice's action in the local case has so far been vindicated.

THE London Clubs are "feeling the draught" in consequence of the war, and those institutions which can still show a waiting list of candidates seeking admission are counted fortunate. Many of the newer Clubs will probably have to close their doors before the war is over, and it will be with feelings of regret that West Indians will learn that the United Empire Club has been compelled to put the shutters up, nearly 700 of its members, as Sir Edward Goulding, M.P., pointed out at the final meeting, being on active service. The members have been absorbed by the Constitutional. Apropos of Clubs, it is an interesting fact that of all the Dominions and Colonies, the British West Indies alone have been able to maintain a successful Club of their own in the Metropolis.

SPEAKING at a meeting held under the auspices of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, at St. William's College, York, on October 19th, Archdeacon Josa, of Demerara, said that fully 90 per cent. of the Chinese in British Guiana were now Christians. They were fully trustworthy, they gave liberally—because they believed. There was, however, one trouble amongst them, and that was the opium habit. The work amongst the Chinese in Demerara was practically finished, and the Government would tell them that they were the best colonists. That had been accomplished by nothing but religion.

THE public has hitherto had no opportunity of inspecting the spoils and trophies of war beyond an incendiary bomb or two, fragments of shells, and German "pickelhaubes" (or helmets) and uniforms displayed by enterprising tradesmen in their shop-windows. Now, however, they have something really worth looking at, a number of captured Ger-

man guns having been placed on exhibition in the Horse Guards' Parade—that familiar open space at the eastern end of St. James's Park, where the Colour is "trooped" on the King's birthday in peace time. The guns, which have proved a great source of attraction, include many specimens of those of which we have read so much—77mm. and 88mm. guns, trench mortars, etc. Three of the guns were captured at Le Cateau on August 26th, 1914, and the remainder were taken at Loos on September 25th last. The recruiting sergeants have been busy among the throngs of spectators.

PRACTICALLY every newspaper in the United Kingdom seems to have published the King's Call to the Nation, which has appeared at an opportune moment in connection with the recruiting campaign. Knowing, however, that the CIRCULAR is often the first paper from home to which West Indians turn when the mail comes in, we give the text of His Majesty's stirring appeal to his subjects, for they should read it without delay.

Buckingham Palace.

#### TO MY PEOPLE.

At this grave moment in the struggle between my people and a highly organised enemy who has transgressed the Laws of Nations and changed the ordinance that binds civilised Europe together, I appeal to you.

I rejoice in my Empire's effort, and I feel pride in the voluntary response of my Subjects all over the world who have sacrificed home, fortune, and life itself, in order that another may not inherit the free Empire which their ancestors and mine have built.

I ask you to make good these sacrifices.

The end is not in sight. More men and yet more are wanted to keep my Armies in the Field, and through them to secure Victory and enduring Peace.

In ancient days the darkest moment has ever produced in men of our race the sternest resolve.

I ask you, men of all classes, to come forward voluntarily and take your share in the fight.

In freely responding to my appeal, you will be giving your support to our brothers, who, for long months, have nobly upheld Britain's past traditions, and the glory of her Arms.

GEORGE, R.I.

### THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

Since we last went to press, orders for the West India Committee Map of the West Indies have been received from the three Government Emigration Agents at Calcutta, Benares, and Madras. This gives some indication as to how widely this very useful coloured map is being distributed.

The special price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the educational authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

IN 1913 the Porto Rico Experiment Station laid out plots for manure experiments in connection with sugar cane cultivation in the Ansaco valley in that island. The soil was a red clay, slightly different from ordinary soils of this description, but at the same time closely related. The manures used were lime, nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, dried blood, a combined nitrogenous and phosphatic fertiliser and a complete fertiliser. When the canes were cut in the following year it was found that in no case had the manures appreciably increased the yield of cane.

\* \* \*

THE Report of the above experiment station refers also to a new parasitic fungus disease of cacao. The fungus is apparently a species of *Corticium*, but as no fruiting condition has been found, and the vegetative characters are reported to be different from those of *C. lilacino-fuscum*, no identification is stated to have been made. It covers the branches with a close pinkish growth, which, when old, becomes white. It makes its first appearance at the lenticels of the branches, but only after it has attacked and killed the underlying tissues. It is extremely parasitic, the attacked branches being invariably killed. The control consists in pruning out all the diseased material and removing all vines, dead or living, from the trees.

\* \* \*

VARIOUS views as to the cause of "tackiness" in rubber, the loss of tone which it sustains in transportation or storage, have been from time to time promulgated. The *India Rubber World* now states that Messrs. Hein and Marquis, as the result of experiment, have arrived at the conclusion that the turning of crude rubber into a patchy, tacky mass is due to the absorption by the rubber of the oxygen of the air, this absorption being favoured by a rise in temperature, that a small quantity of oxygen is sufficient to decompose a large quantity of rubber, and that smoking after coagulation preserves rubber from becoming "tacky" by forming a coating that keeps it from air.

IN the *Kew Bulletin* it is pointed out that according to the late Dr. Huber, the Tapajoz region of Brazil, where the seeds were obtained by Wickham for the East, did not grow the best rubber in Brazil, and that therefore Eastern rubber is not so good as it might have been. This is an assumption which is based on false premises. The difference of quality in the Brazilian rubbers is merely one of environment, and, although the seeds came from a region in Brazil producing inferior rubber, if the soil and climate conditions were as favourable as in the good rubber producing parts of Brazil, the resulting Eastern rubber would be of equally good quality.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS

THE R.M.S. *Ortega*, which should have left Trinidad on October 4th, was held up in the Pacific owing to the obstruction of the Panama Canal, and is now on her way home round the Horn. Quite a heavy mail has, however, been received via the United States. It included, among others, two letters, dated September 30th and October 1st, from Mr. E. A. Agar, to whose subsequent death, which will be a matter for general regret among West Indians, reference is made in another column. These letters, which are published in full below, bear ample evidence of Mr. Agar's patriotic spirit and to his devotion to the interests of the island which he so faithfully served and represented as our Honorary Correspondent.

## ANTIGUA—A persistent would-be recruit.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, SEPT. 30th.—The Antigua Contingent leave to-morrow in the *Balanita* to await the first opportunity for England. A very successful concert was given last night as a sort of send-off for the men. The performers included Mr. Mackie, the Archdeacon, Mr. C. Piggott, Mr. N. Scott-Johnson, Mr. B. Thibou, Dr. Tempany, Mr. R. Gomes, Mr. W. Essex, Inspector Tough, Mr. de Freitas, Mr. R. Henry, Mrs. Forrest, Miss Slack, Miss Mendes, Mrs. J. Gomes, Mrs. Nanton, Mrs. Harrison, and Miss E. Bell. During the evening selections were played by the orchestra. At the conclusion the Contingent were marched on to the platform by Lieut. Tough, and all joined in singing Auld Lang Syne. A large meeting in aid of the recruiting funds was held at the County School of All Saints on Sept. 28th, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. V. Best, presiding, and speakers including the Bishop, Dr. Maguire, Lieut. Tough, and the writer. An addition of £8 to Antigua War Fund resulted. Though some held off on such excuses as having business to attend to and preferring to fight at home, etc., others have shown enthusiasm. One, for example, who was rejected for having a weak heart, walked 23 miles round the Valley district reporting himself at various stages of the journey, and then called upon the Governor to intercede on his behalf. The weather conditions are not so favourable as we would like in the Windward, Pope's head and Valley districts, the middle of the island has got all the rain while other districts are left out. The crops are looking well and prospects continue bright for next year. We are anxiously awaiting decoration of Gua.

## THE BAHAMAS—Mr. Allardyce's initiative.

THE *Nassau Guardian* of September 29th gives a report of the special session of the Legislature summoned by the Hon. W. L. Allardyce, C.M.G., the Governor, to consider what further assistance might be given to the mother country in view of the enthusiasm evoked by the departure of the Bahamas Contingent. On the motion of Mr. Cole it was resolved to indemnify the Receiver General and Treasurer in paying out of the Public Treasury to the Governor in Council, a sum not exceeding five thousand pounds, (£5,000) for the purpose of paying all necessary expenses incurred in the sending of a Contingent of one hundred men to Jamaica, to form part of the West Indian Contingent for service during the present war. In a leading article in the same issue His Excellency is deservedly complimented upon the initiative which he showed in the matter. It is noteworthy that the Legislature has only been called together to discuss some particular subject on six occasions.

## BARBADOS—The Light Railway Bill passed.

THE *Agricultural Reporter* of September 25th records partial rains with a general downpour on the night of the 21st, when 4½ inches fell in St. Michael's, 2 inches in St.

Andrews, and 17 inches in St. Peter's. The effect has been on the whole favourable. The crop generally is in a highly satisfactory condition; but there are many fields of ratoon which are low because the preceding crop was taken off late in the season, and there is as yet but little cane under the luxuriant foliage. Cultivation and manuring have been carried out to the full extent required, and therefore the copious rains will not fail to benefit them much. The forward canes in other fields have been beaten down by the water or blown prostrate by the wind, but, as in only very few instances have they been broken off, the effect is not disastrous.

The House of Assembly met on September 14th and passed a Bill authorising the issue of a loan of £40,000. There was a protracted debate on the Barbados Light Railway Act Amending Bill. The section granting a subsidy of £2,000 a year for ten years was approved by 21 votes to 6, and the Bill with amendments was eventually read a third time and passed.

We regret to state that Mr. F. G. Knight, Barrister-at-Law and Police Magistrate of District "F," Barbados, died in Barbados on the 25th September last. Mr. H. S. Sainsbury, Barrister-at-Law and Customs Officer has been appointed in his place.

#### BRITISH GUIANA.—Artesian Wells and Georgetown

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, OCTOBER 2nd.—The *Geosy Mail Edition* contains an interesting report of an interview with the Director of Public Works, on the subject of artesian wells and an account of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Bishop Galton on 21st ult., and it also gives an account of Mr. Bodkin's report on the locust pest on the Corentyne.

A correspondent writes: The Commissioners of the East Demerara Water Conservancy have recently much increased the capacity of the water scheme for the supply of the East coast by extending the south wing dam of the conservancy to the high lands beyond the Madsone Creek, thus considerably enlarging the catchment area, and increasing the supply to meet the greater demands necessitated by rice growing and other requirements on the East coast estates. The possibility of such extensions were foreseen by the late Mr. William Russell when he designed the original scheme many years ago; and which was subsequently carried through by the late Mr. B. Howell Jones, Mr. Jos. Monkhouse, and other later Commissioners.

The scheme recently proposed by Mr. Buck, Director of Public Works, for a pure water supply for the city of Georgetown by the sinking of a series of artesian wells, in substitution of the present supply obtained from rain-water storage and the Lamaha Canal, has received general acceptance from both the Government and the Corporation of the city.

In view, however, of the question of constancy of supply on the multiplication of borings, as raised some months ago in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, it has been wisely recommended by the committee to whom the matter was referred that the entire scheme be submitted for the opinion of an expert.

A modern electrical recording anemometer has lately been added to the instruments at the Meteorological Station, Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, and installed there close to the residence of the Director of Science and Agriculture. Demerara being considered to be outside the hurricane zone probably a register of wind velocity may not be such a matter of importance there as in the islands of the West Indies, but it will be none the less useful and interesting information to possess.

Some years ago wind records were kept at the Colonial Hospital, Georgetown, on a more antiquated form of anemometer. The highest pressure there recorded was 57 lbs. per square inch on the 5th February, 1893, and the highest mean daily velocity ten miles per hour.

#### DOMINICA—The late Mr. Agar's last letters

MR. E. A. AGAR wrote on September 30th: "We just felt another passing hurricane on the 14th; this time it was to the south of us, and although at times the wind

was high and of the unmistakable hurricane character, no damage of any sort was done as far as I have heard. Otherwise the weather has been fine enough.

"Cacao is beginning to ripen well, while the lime crop is nearly over, but this crop will not cease altogether as it did last year; moderate quantities should continue to come in till the end of February at any rate.

"A great deal of work is being done upon the roads now, and most of it of a permanent character as one can expect in this climate; if the work is continued throughout the twelve months, we may expect better and cheaper work to be done during the spring, when there is little chance of rains such as we have recently had—one fall of over 6 inches and another of over 4 inches in the last six weeks.

"Everyone is feeling bucked up with the cables of the past few days. It really looks as if we have begun to go forward at last, though it seems a bit late in the year to accomplish much. Please keep the possibilities of Dominica before you as an opening for men who will not be able to face an office life when all this is over. If you can think of any way in which I can assist, let me know."

Again on October 1st, Mr. Agar wrote: "The newspapers have been requested not to publish anything about our West Indian Contingent for the moment, but I have ascertained that there is no objection to letters being written on the subject.

"The Leeward Islands draft goes by Royal Mail tomorrow, Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and we ourselves each sending 24 men and Montserrat 8, making a half-company, and monthly drafts amounting to about 10 per cent. of this force will be sent as long as required. Our men are quite a fine looking lot and the smartness they have already acquired in elementary drill, though it is only a week or so since their training was begun, is evidence of their keenness; they are wearing a comfortable and neat uniform of khaki trousers and shirt, which is to last them for the voyage. This morning services were held in the churches of the three religious denominations to wish them God-speed, and well attended services they were too.

"Whatever may be the military value of these units, and I, at any rate, believe that with training they will acquire themselves well, and be an actual, though small, factor in ultimate victory, there can be no doubt as to the supreme value to ourselves in the fact that we are taking our part in the war. Plenty of men have gone already on their own account and we have suffered a few losses, too, but this Contingent represents a movement on the part of the community as a whole, and it should be fully realised that our tardy participation is not our fault, the War Office having hitherto ruled that the men were of more use here, and that after what has looked almost like a rebuff, though of course it was not, it is a fine thing to find plenty of men anxious to go as soon as opportunity is offered them."

#### MONTSERRAT—The recruits for the B.W.I.'s.

MR. K. P. DESCHON, SEPT. 1st.—The cotton worm is still most persistent in its attack, and it is with difficulty and at great expense that we are keeping this pest in check. The first batch of recruits ordered from Montserrat, eight in number, leave by mail for England this evening. Their names are: A. Barnard, J. Brand, G. Riley, Wm. John, J. Brumble, J. O'Brien, J. Roche and J. Webb. There are eighteen others ready, and several other names have been entered for medical examination. We gave the lads a send-off by way of a sing-song at the Plymouth Men's Club, His Honour, Mr. R. H. Kortright-Dyett, Acting Commissioner, presiding. There has at last been a start made with the erection of poles for the telephone service. We hope the telegraph will follow soon.

#### ST. KITTS—The bad state of the roads.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, SEPT. 29th.—August and September have been unusually hot and sultry months this year, but with frequent local showers, so that the weather on the whole has been favourable for the growing crops.

and it is some years since the general appearance of the island has been so promising as it is to-day for the next reaping season.

I note Mr. Cowley's remarks as to the wretched condition of the public roads in Antigua in CIRCULAR 110, and I regret to say that they can be applied with equal force here. It is far more a penance than a pleasure to travel on our roads at present, and I am not at all surprised that motor car owners frequently come to grief on their journeys.

This Excellence Sir Hesketh Bell arrived here on Saturday morning per SS. *Canaquet*. He inspected the Defence Force, Police, and the recruits selected for the West Indian Battalion at Springfield Parade Ground yesterday afternoon, and at its conclusion delivered a very fine address. This mail sees the departure of our local detachment to form part of the contemplated West Indian Contingent. Out of 127 men who passed the medical examination 31 and an officer (Lieut. A. H. Shepherd) are now leaving us, with another 30 held in reserve. All classes have joined heartily in attentions to the men and contributing to their needs and comfort. Special services have been held in the principal churches of all denominations. Last Thursday evening the recruits were entertained by the Mutual Improvement Society, and last evening a very successful entertainment was provided at the Grammar School by the local Amateur Dramatic Society, the men being entertained at supper afterwards. Tomorrow is a public holiday, and no doubt the men will have a good send-off.

#### TOBAGO. The need for Medical Officers.

MR. C. DAVID HAY, OCTOBER 1st. During the past fortnight the weather has been steamy, bright sunshine alternating with frequent heavy rains, 2.01 inches of which are recorded at the Botanic Station, making a total of 18.7 inches for September as against 8.30 for the corresponding period last year, 10.03 inches for 1913, and 2.00 for 1912. First season's cacao picking from the northern district are coming into market in small quantities, tobacco is also coming in and the exports of fruit, mainly sugar apples, avocado pears, and water melons is large. Had we a regular Friday night departure direct from Scarborough to Port of Spain in addition to the existing timetables of the coastal steamer, to catch the Saturday-Sunday market there, the export of fruit and other perishable products would show an immediate and permanent increase. To arrange such an extra trip does not appear unaccountable and would be of much benefit to small cultivators. The newly-appointed Agricultural Inspector is highly pleased with the progress made and the application of the peasant proprietors in the Windward district, their eagerness to be instructed in the proper cultivation of their five and ten acre blocks in cacao surpasses his most sanguine expectations. The Government had for quite a long time suspended this most useful course of instruction, nor can any valid reason be adduced for this retrograde step, however it is now partly mended—at last. A dreadful tragedy took place on Little Tobago on the evening of the 22nd September by which one man was shot dead and a man and woman severely chopped with a cutlass, none of the parties are natives of Tobago. The wounded man reached the district hospital in Scarborough 23 hours after the deed was committed by coastal steamer and the woman in 38 hours overland. The distance is 28 miles. A startling illustration this of the want of sufficient medical aid, one doctor for over 7,000 people widely scattered over long distances is the present condition.

Great disappointment is felt at the official announcement that no more recruits are wanted for Kitchener's Army, as it is thought that an important colony like Trinidad should have despatched 1,000 including 100 from Tobago, with subsequent drafts to keep up the detachment to full strength. The finances of the colony can afford it and the men are willing to enlist. It is incumbent that such an important scheme should not be handled in a petty, miserly spirit. The West Indies and its opportunities will be a different place when these lads return home at the conclusion of peace, therefore the greater the

regret that only a third of the quantity that ought to go from Trinidad has gone. Tobago is willing to do her share if Trinidad is not. The death at Merchiston Hall, Horndean, Hants, last August of the only daughter of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., recalls that in the forties the Napiers owned Merchiston and Delaford estates in this island and members of the family resided at Merchiston House. These properties are now owned by Mr. R. J. H. Thomas from Barbados, a hard-working and up-to-date planter. The estimates for next year are being prepared, and it is hoped that provision will be made to give back to the people of the Leeward district their own resident doctor and include medicines not far from their homes, failing this important step then the kind services of Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., will have to be requisitioned for this act of restitution, for it was during his administration of the affairs of the island 27 years ago that under the score of economy the unwise course was adopted to deprive 3,000 people of their doctor. Small wonder that it has taken 20 years to get a paltry 2,000 increase of population for a prolific people whose annual birth-rate exceeds 800. Mails by the SS. *Orator* which left Liverpool on the 17th September arrived here on the 22nd—18 days—and on the following day replies were despatched to connect with the *Malura* at Port of Spain bound for New York. Mails per *Salybia* dated London 7th September reached here early yesterday—23 days. A weekly British Mail arrival and weekly despatch of mails from Tobago to England is easily possible once the first fortnight's delay is got over as it has been, and the postal authorities in London do not object to our mails reaching them via New York. The reluctance to sending out our mails through non-British post offices is understood. Readers of the CIRCULAR are loud in their praises of the brief but fully comprehensive summary of the war news published in its pages.

#### TRINIDAD. The late Mr. Tertius Wilson.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPT. 29th.—The news from the front of the substantial success of the British and the victory of the French was received here yesterday with every manifestation of delight. The town was instantly gay with hunting, and it was difficult to say which class of the community was most pleased.

OCTOBER 5th.—The sincerest sympathy of all of us is aroused this morning for Captain W. H. Owen, R.N.R., of the Marine Superintendent of the Royal Mail Company, by the announcement that his younger son, Lieut. Meredith Owen, has fallen on the field of honour in France.

OCTOBER 7th.—It is no exaggeration to say that practically all Trinidad mourned yesterday when the news spread that Tertius Wilson, one of its best known and best loved sons, had passed away the night before. He was the eldest son of the late Robert Wilson, himself eldest of the sons of James Wilson, founder of the firm of Wilson, Sons and Co., of Glasgow and Trinidad, for over sixty years bearing a most respected and honoured name in the commerce of the island. His Christian name was James, but being the third of that name in the family alive for many years at the same time, he was always known as Tertius, and recently he formally adopted it. As Lieutenant in the Mounted Infantry, he was one of the officers selected to proceed to England with the Merchants' Contingent, and no one among them was more keen and anxious to answer duty's call. Only a few days' illness served to close his young, bright and useful life. Clever, jovial and generous, his presence everywhere radiated good feeling and fellowship. The funeral—one of the largest—was military, and attended by all the local forces and hundreds of others to pay their last tribute to the dear friend of so many of us—the best type of a Scottish creole gentleman. Mrs. Wilson, a daughter of the late Hon. George Goodwill, who is at present in England with their only child, a daughter, will receive the heartfelt sympathy of all.

The weather during September has not been favourable. The rainfall has been normal, but unevenly distributed, falling heavily in some quarters whilst in others

short droughts have occurred. From some places reports come of quantities of young fruit being dead on the trees. Receipts of cacao have been extraordinarily small, the official return of exports being only 50,372 lbs.—a record in the wrong direction, the next lowest for very many years being that of November, 1912, when the shipments amounted to only 329,730 lbs. With prices both in London and New York advancing, quotations here have stiffened, and to-day's rates are about \$18.00 and \$17.75 per fanega for Estates and Ordinary respectively. Arrivals from Venezuela have been in fair quantity and have changed hands at from \$18.00 to \$18.25 with good demand.

The Shipments of Trinidad Cacao during the month of September, 1915, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	1,900
British North America	45,512
British Guiana	1,000
United States of America	1,960
<b>Total for September</b>	<b>50,372</b>
Shipped previously	43,834,541
<b>Total from 1st January</b>	<b>43,884,913</b>
To same date, 1914	59,879,569
.. .. 1913	44,915,936
.. .. 1912	39,063,198
.. .. 1911	41,523,273
.. .. 1910	47,556,743
.. .. 1909	40,801,845
.. .. 1908	35,471,115
.. .. 1907	31,308,624

Oil and asphalt are being shipped in increasing quantities, and the official anticipations of heavy loss of revenue in respect thereof seem likely to remain unfulfilled.

**TURKS ISLAND—New Steamer Service.**

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., OCTOBER 26th.—Messrs. Pickford and Black have made temporary arrangements for one of their boats on the Jamaica service to call at Turks Island once a month each way, north and south. The service started with the sailing of the SS. *José*, on the 2nd instant.

**WEST INDIA SECURITIES.**

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Price
1/4	Antigua 4% Redeemable 1919-44	95
1/4	Barbados 3 3/4% Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
1/4	British Guiana 4% Redeemable 1935	94
1/4	British Guiana 3% Redeemable 1933-45	74 1/2
1/4	Grenada 4% Redeemable 1917-42	94 1/2
1/4	Jamaica 4% Redeemable 1934	97 1/2
3/4	Jamaica 3 1/2% Redeemable 1919-49	81 1/2
1/4	Jamaica 3% Redeemable 1922-44	75
1/4	St. Lucia 4% Redeemable 1919-44	95
1/4	Trinidad 4% Redeemable 1917-42	94
1/4	Trinidad 3% Redeemable 1922-44	74
1/2	The Colonial Bank	90 1/2
7/8	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	87 1/2
5/8	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	138 1/2
4 1/2	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	87 1/2
4 1/2	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	87 1/2
4 1/2	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2% Debentures	100
6	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	147
6	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	97 1/2
7	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	87
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	213-2/6
—	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	2
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	28
7	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	102
7	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	74
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	85
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	109/9
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref	8 1/2
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " and " "	4 1/2
5	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	91 1/2

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**

An interim dividend of 2 per cent. has been declared as compared with 2 1/2 per cent. at the corresponding period in 1913. Last year no interim dividend was declared.

**The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.**

The production of oil for week ended Wednesday, 13th October was 605 tons; and for the week ended Wednesday, 20th October, 549 tons.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR.**

**West Indian Chocolate.**

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of October 5th you illustrate a chocolate box as given by the West Indian Colonies to soldiers and sailors. You state that "the only matter for regret is that the bars of chocolate bear the manufacturers' name, which seems quite unpardonable, having regard to the fact that the chocolate was made to order."

We should be glad if you will allow us to state that the Crown Agents were informed that only on these conditions could we accept their order because we have no moulds that produce a cake of chocolate without a name. We believe that the moulds of all manufacturers bear their name and that it would have taken a very long time to obtain the number of moulds required without a name. We decided to devote all profits resulting from the transaction to hospitals, convalescent homes, or other charitable objects directly connected with the War.

This letter is sent with the approval of the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Yours faithfully,  
CADBURY BROS., LTD.

October 26th, 1915.

**STEAMER SAILINGS.**

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailing to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland, Canada and the United States for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM					
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.	
Nov. 9	Booker Line	<i>Arakaka</i>	Liverpool	A	
.. 11	Leyland	<i>Orubian</i>	..	B, E.	
.. 13	R.M.S.P. Co.	<i>Quillata</i>	London	A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N	
.. 15	Elders & Fyffes	<i>Camito</i>	Avonmouth	D	
.. 18	Direct Line	<i>Catalina</i>	London	K, L, M, N	
.. 20	Elders & Fyffes	<i>Coronada</i>	Avonmouth	D	
Dec. 1	Leyland	<i>Oranion</i>	Liverpool		
FROM FRANCE.					
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.	
Nov. 24	French Mail	<i>Peron</i>	St. Nazaire	J, Martinique & M. E. H.	
FROM HOLLAND.					
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.	
Nov. 19	Royal Dutch	..	Amsterdam	H, E.	
Dec. 3	..	..	..	..	
.. 17	..	..	..	..	
.. 31	..	..	..	..	
FROM CANADA.					
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.	
Nov. 19	R.M.S.P. Co.	<i>Chiqueco</i>	Halifax, N.S.	A, H, E, F, G, I	
Dec. 5	..	<i>Caranquet</i>	..	K, L, M, N	
FROM THE UNITED STATES.					
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.	
Nov. 23	Trinidad Line	<i>Maturra</i>	New York	L, E, B.	
Dec. 7	..	<i>Mayara</i>	..	..	
.. 21	..	<i>Maturral</i>	..	..	

A, Barbados; B, British Guiana; C, British Honduras; D, Jamaica; E, Trinidad; F, Antigua; G, St. Kitts; H, Nevis; I, Montserrat; K, Dominica; L, Grenada; M, St. Lucia; N, St. Vincent.

The Folders of the principal shipping companies whose steamers call at West Indian ports can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.



**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                     |                     |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. B. Bonynb       | Mr. P. L. Guppy     | Mr. W. J. Robson       |
| Mr. A. Campbell     | Mr. A. T. Hammond   | Mr. G. Elliott Sealy   |
| Dr. C. F. Castor    | Mrs. E. Haynes      | Mr. F. B. B. Shand     |
| Mr. J. W. Cuthbert  | Mr. A. L. McColl    | Mr. K. B. Short        |
| Mr. Arthur E. Clodd | Mr. A. E. Morrish   | and                    |
| Hon. H. Ferguson    | Mr. T. W. O'Neil    | Mr. F. H. S. Warneford |
| Mr. E. Fitzgerald   | Mr. A. E. Perkins   |                        |
| Mr. W. M. Fletcher  | Mr. W. C. Robertson |                        |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
 Lieut-Col J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoynne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 The Very Rev. Dean of Georgetown, 39, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.  
 Mr. T. L. Dunsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Road Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Alex. Fraser, c/o The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.  
 Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Royal Colonial Institute, London, W.C.  
 Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Arooth, Esher, Surrey.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
 Mr. E. C. Skinner, Fairview, Mayfield, Sussex.  
 Mr. S. H. Taylor, Regent Palace Hotel, Regent Street, W.  
 Mr. J. B. Wraith, c/o Miss Hobills, 13, Beaumont Street, W.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent, as from the 8th of August, 1914. The new War Loan is quoted at 98½, and the old War Loan at 92½. The Rights have now lapsed. Consols stand at 65.

**SUGAR**—As might have been expected, the sugar clause of the Finance Bill did not pass without protest on the part of the more dogmatic Free Trade members of the House of Commons as to the protection given to home grown sugar by fixing the Excise lower than the Customs' duty. In reply to these Mr. McKenna, with charming ingenuousness, stated that as hitherto there had been a Customs tax and no Excise, the fixing of the amount of the Excise so as to give a surtax on imported sugar was merely "a recognition by the law of a different rate of Customs and Excise duty on sugar," and that therefore it could not be regarded as the bringing in of a new principle! Referring to the Cantley Factory in Norfolk, which is now taking off its fourth crop, Mr. McKenna said "People who have been conducting this experiment—it is nothing more—have been under great difficulties and no very great profit. If we impose the same Excise as the Customs' duty we destroy the experiment in a moment." If Mr. McKenna's statement is correct, it would appear that after a score of years of experiment in sugar beet cultivation, and after four years of factory work on business lines, with a Customs' protection of £1 16s. 8d. per ton, with the assistance of an indirect grant from the Development Fund, the Norfolk sugar venture requires assistance to the extent of £2 6s. 8d. per ton, even when the combined effects of the War and Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies have raised the bond price of sugar nearly 50 per cent. above its pre-war value.

In connection with this statement of Mr. McKenna's it is interesting to note that the Anglo-Netherland Sugar Corporation, Ltd., to which the Cantley Factory belongs, has notified the Cantley farmers that it has sold its present crop at a price which will give them between 30s. and 31s. a ton for their beets, which is an exceptionally high figure, and is a bonus of 5s. to 6s. on the contract price of 25s. per ton. But whatever the financial position of home grown sugar may be, the fact remains that the latter is definitely protected, while Colonial cane sugar has to jog along with every prospect of German and Austrian protected sugar coming into direct competition with it, although the extension of the £2 6s. 8d. privilege to Colonial sugars to enable them to compete with German and Austrian sugars on even terms would be no more the violation of a "principle" than the protection now given to home grown beet.

Another feature in Mr. McKenna's reply was the renewed reference to the obligations of Great Britain under the Brussels Convention. It is difficult to understand why the Government adheres to the one-sided arrangement, terminable at six months' notice, made with the remaining parties to the Convention when Great Britain withdrew from the Convention in 1913, unless it is looking forward to the Sugar Using Trades being again supplied with German and Austrian sugar under cost to the detriment of British Colonial sugar and to the ultimate undoing of the sugar using trades themselves.

Accounts of the cane sugar crops throughout the world are not uniformly satisfactory. The Java crop is being troubled with difficulties of manufacture from unsatisfactory juice, calculated to prejudice the yield, the Cuban crop promises well, the Mauritius crop will be somewhat below the average, while the Louisiana crop has been somewhat damaged by the hurricane. The sugar crops in the West Indies promise excellently, although some trouble is being experienced in Trinidad with froghoppers.

During the six months ending March 31st, 1915, the quantity of cane sugar marketed will probably be in the neighbourhood of 3,400,000 tons, leaving out the self-consumed production of India. Against this supply the demand is likely to be 3,280,000 tons,—1,330,000 by the United States, the consumption of that country being made up of its own beet crop; 850,000 tons for the United King-

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Sept. 23.		Jan. 1 to Sept. 18.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar ...	39,054	51,740 Tons.	13,586	13,610 Tons.
Molasses ...	85,197 Galls.			
Rum ...	2,925,559	1,895,447 H. Gls.	1,089,883	989,246 Galls.
Molascuit, &c. ...	1,354	1,119 Tons.		
Cacao ...	58,174	41,937 lbs.	7,031,136	6,841,968 lbs.
Coffee ...	172,185	238,767 "	5,352,560	5,790,736 "
Coco-nuts ...	1,409,200	1,483,571 No.	19,445,554	20,986,140 No.
Oranges ...			5,085,750	3,017,150 "
Bananas ...			7,674,258	13,963,542 Stems.
Cotton ...			33,249	32,607 lbs.
Pimento ...			45,290	64,938 Cwts.
Ginger ...			10,153	16,799 "
Honey ...			112,595	141,748 Galls.
Dyewoods ...			33,124	46,079 Tons.
Gold ...	41,134	46,291 Ozs.		
Diamonds ...	2,355	9,517 Carats		
Rice ...	15,556,443	10,317,310 lbs.		
Balata ...	1,159,134	612,444 "		
Rubber ...	2,899	782 "		
Timber ...	100,311	173,130 cub. ft.		
Lumber ...	127,659	241,229 H.		
Lime (citrate of) ...	11,118	3,144 lbs.		

Trinidad.		Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to Oct. 4.		Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar ...	45,387	45,190 Tons.	31,137	31,708 Tons.
Molasses ...	4,544	3,276 Puns.	51,355	99,974 Puns.
Rum ...	5,314	881 "		
Coco-nuts ...	8,199,190	11,383,823 No.		
Asphalt ...	63,374	117,142 Tons.		
Manjak ...	496	224 "		
Bitters ...	12,549	13,507 Cases.		
Coffee ...	10,850	13,440 lbs.		
Crude Petrol ...				
Cacao ...	43,163,600	60,092,000 lbs.	11,189,880	11,012,490 lbs.
Cotton ...			1,182	1,172 Bales
Seed ...			1,023	3,553 Bags.
Copra ...	17,449	8,322 Bags.	329	277 "
Sikee ...			1,410,300	1,372,940 lbs.
Rola ...			5,310	5,320 "

Dominica.		Grenada.	
Jan. 1 to Aug. 31.		Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.	
1915.	1914.	1914/15	1913/14
Cacao ...	555,184	516,768 lbs.	
Limes ...	35,372	39,411 barrels.	
Lime Juice, raw ...	342,941	160,647 galls.	
... concentrated ...	20,143	40,575 "	
... Citrate of ...	340	2,762 cwts.	
Lime Oil, distilled ...	944	1,936 galls.	
... enuelled ...	235	663 "	
Hardwood ...	25,231	69,911 feet.	
Bonans ...	2,059	2,302 stems.	
Coco-nuts ...	298,656	391,484 No.	

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—ADVANCE BOOKINGS FROM ENGLAND TO THE WEST INDIES, per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*, Nov. 13th.

- |                          |                           |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Hon. & Mrs. W. J. Robson | Mrs. G. M. Whiteinan      | Miss Bovell        |
| Hon. & Mrs. P. J. Dean   | Miss G. Garnett           | Mrs. C. H. McClean |
| Mrs. & Miss Agostini     | Mr. N. V. Huddleston      | Mrs. C. H. Duff    |
| Mrs. & Miss Chizzole     | Mr. & Mrs. J. G. McIntosh | Miss N. Duff       |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Mendis  | Rev. & Mrs. F. Calveri    | Mr. E. Vule        |
| Mr. M. Miray             | Rev. H. L. Dixon          | Mr. P. C. Gibson   |

dom; 800,000 tons for India, China, Canada, France, Malaya and the Mediterranean; while Australia, South Africa and Japan will consume about 300,000 tons during this period. There promises, therefore, to be no shortage of sugar, especially as 100,000 tons will be available for export from Holland. Nothing of any moment is to be expected from any of the other European countries, while it is quite possible that South America will supply more than that with which she has been credited.

The world's production of cane sugar is steadily increasing. In 1912-13, according to Willett and Gray, it was 9,232,548 tons, in 1913-14, it was 9,865,016 tons, in 1914-15, it had reached 9,909,735 tons. For 1915-16 it promises to be well over 10,000,000. The world's beet industry, on the other hand, has materially decreased. In 1912-13 the total beet sugar output was 8,976,277 tons, in 1913-14, 8,908,375 tons and in 1914-15, 8,130,534 tons. For 1915-16 it is estimated at 6,765,000 tons; the war being accountable for a considerable proportion of the diminution. Thus, the estimated crop of Germany is 1,850,000 tons as against 2,725,000 tons in 1913-14; of Austria-Hungary 1,170,000 tons as against 1,672,000 tons, of France 200,000 tons as against 786,000 tons, of Belgium 128,000 tons as against 230,000 tons, of Russia 1,700,000 tons as against 1,731,000, or a total deficiency on the countries most affected of 2,086,000 tons. Apart from the war influence, the world's cane sugar industry is steadily forging ahead of the beet sugar industry, and the present relation forms a contrast to that which obtained in 1901-2, when 6,800,000 tons of beet and 6,300,000 tons of cane sugar were produced.

M. G. Dureau, the distinguished editor of the *Journal de Fabricants de Sucre*, to whom we offer our sincerest sympathies on the death of his son Lucien on the field of battle, gives the production of France for 1914-15 as 297,386 tons and the consumption 638,638 tons.

The fixing of the retail prices of sugar on the new scale of Government prices has caused a storm of protest from grocers, who complain that the scale admits of no profit being made. Although the difference between the wholesale Government price and the retail price is the same as before, when no complaint was made by the retail trade, the raising of the duty has necessarily increased the capital expenditure, while freight charges are higher than they were. In reply to a question on this subject in the House, Mr. McKenna said that Royal Commission sugar was sold to wholesale dealers on the condition that the buyers shall resell at a profit of not more than 2½ per cent. on sales for cash and immediate delivery. This leaves £4 per ton with granulated at 4d. to cover cartage, handling and profit. This, the grocers claim, does not allow of sufficient interest on the turnover to meet the proportion of general expenditure. The position has been met as regards cubes by the Sugar Commission lowering its price by £9 10s. per ton, and reducing the retail maximum to 5d. a pound.

The imports of sugar into India for the five months, April-August of this year, amounted to 130,715 tons as against 128,822 tons for the five corresponding months of 1914.

In London the market for West Indian grocery sugar was dull in the earlier part of the fortnight. On the 19th ult. 620 tons was offered but met with very slow demand, and only a small part sold at previous prices. On the 22nd, 330 tons were offered, and a few lots of St. Lucia were sold at 28s. 9d., together with some Barbados muscovado at 26s. 6d. On the 26th, however, there was a fair demand, and out of the 190 tons offered, 543 bags of Demerara sold at 28s. 6d., together with 927 bags of Demerara syrups at 23s. 6d. to 26s. 6d.; 322 bags Antigua syrups realised 25s. 3d. to 25s. 9d. On the 29th, the market was firm with good demand, especially for syrups, which brought full rates. Prices for crystallised ranged from 28s. 9d. to 30s., while Demerara syrups fetched 24s. 7½d. At to-day's sales, 389 bags Demerara crystallised were sold at 30s. 3d. to 30s. 6d., and 923 bags Trinidad at 29s. 3d. to 31s. 3d.

The West India sugar statistics from January 1st to October 28th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Tons
Imports ...	48,245	27,373	35,406	24,381	32,903	
Deliveries ...	39,203	32,406	24,623	26,211	31,827	
Stock (Oct. 23)	15,051	7,919	12,627	2,660	5,436	

The New York market has been fairly steady during the fortnight, rising to \$4.39 for 66° duty paid sugars on the 23rd, but falling to \$4.25 on the following day, subsequently rising to \$4.45, at which figure it stood yesterday, equivalent to \$3.43 for c.i.f. Cubans and \$3.18 for c.i.f. non-preferential 96° sugars. Granulated stands at \$5.15 to \$5.25.

**RUM**—The market for Jamaica is very firm, with prices for ordinary ranging from 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d. Demerara market unchanged.

The stocks in London on October 23rd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	5,250	8,102	7,246	8,796	10,398
Demerara ...	5,673	7,188	6,629	5,753	3,997
Total, all kinds	22,852	21,817	21,615	22,680	22,851

**CACAO**—The market has been firm with rates advancing considerably. At auction on the 26th, 6,605 bags were offered, of which, however, only 97 were British West Indian, and no Trinidad was put up for sale. 44 bags Jamaica were mostly sold at 81s. 6d. to 82s. 6d.; 28 bags St. Vincent fetched 82s.; 22 bags Grenada were parted with at 80s. 6d. to 84s. 6d., and 3 bags Dominica fetched 80s. 6d. Sales have since been made at 88s. to 89s. for Trinidad, and later at 91s. At to-day's sales the Trinidad offered was bought in, Grenada selling at 2s. to 3s. advance, with 1s. advance for foreign kinds.

Some criticism took place in the House of Commons during the discussion of the Finance Bill in connection with the imposition of a higher tax on tea than on cacao. Mr. McKenna explained that, as the consumption of cacao in drink was small compared with that of tea, and as chocolate paid a high duty as sugar, tea was the more suitable article from which to raise revenue.

The stocks in London on October 23rd were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	12,546	10,806	12,280	7,091	7,262
Grenada ...	1,945	5,059	3,116	1,823	8,669
Total, all kinds	127,007	85,995	82,015	101,209	100,737

**COTTON**—Only a small business has been done in West Indian Sea Island since last report. The sales amount to about 100 bales, chiefly from 14d. to 15d., with tinged at 11½d., and stains at 8½d. The market remains steady. The imports of British West Indian cotton into the United Kingdom for the year up to the 28th October were 4,630 bales.

**ARROWROOT**—Small sales of St. Vincent have been made at 2½d. to 4½d.

**SPICES**—The market for large Nutmegs is 1d. dearer, but unchanged for smaller varieties. The present quotations are 100's/80's, 4½d. to 5d.; 120's/100's, 4½d. to 4¾d.; 140's/120's, 4½d. to 4¾d. Mace is quiet with West Indian slightly lower. Good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 4d.; red to good, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; broken, 6d. to 11d. Pimento is quoted at 2½d. to 2¾d. for fair to good, and 2½d. to 2¾d. for ordinary to middling. **Ginger**—The market is quiet, the trade awaiting samples of recent arrivals. While there is a good enquiry for fine descriptions, the commoner grades are not wanted at present. Jamaica may be valued at 55s. to 60s. for common and 62s. to 68s. for fine.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil.—Distilled quieter, with fair supplies demand has slackened, but quotations are unchanged at 7s. 6d. There is no business to report in hand-pressed. **Lime Juice**—Raw is steady at 3s. per gallon for best quality. Concentrated is lower with good business done at £28.

**RUBBER**—Market firm. Fine hard Para is valued at 2s. 5½d., soft at 2s. 5½d. Fine plantation is quoted at 2s. 5½d., Castilloa sheet at 2s. 1d., and scrap at 1s. 8d.

**BALATA**—Market steady. Sciler's spot terms for West Indian sheet, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d., for Venezuela block 1s. 11d., c.i.f. 1s. 9½d. Business has been done in Panama block at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.

**HONEY**—The market is steady, but any rise in price is prevented by the considerable arrivals of Cuban and San Domingo, the bulk of which used to go to Hamburg. The quotation ranges from 29s. for common, to 36s. for fine quality.

**COPRA**—Very firm with advancing prices. Business in West Indian has been done at £28 to £28 5s., and the present value may be given as £28 10s.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

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LONDON, E.C.4.

Telegram: CARIB, LONDON.

November 15th, 1915.

### AMERICA'S SUGAR POLICY.

OUR readers will remember that the Lodge Bill, which passed the Senate of the United States in September, 1913, provided that the then existing rate of Customs duty on sugar, equivalent to \$1.685 per 100 lbs. for 96° sugars imported from other than American countries, should, on the 1st of March, 1914, be reduced by 25 per cent., Cuba receiving the same preferential treatment as before—viz., a reduction of 20 per cent. on the duty. After two years at this rate—to be accurate, on the 1st of May, 1916—the duty was to be removed entirely, and sugar from all sources was to be admitted free into the United States. The object of the two years of slightly reduced tariff was to enable the American sugar industries proper—those of Louisiana, the Western States of America, Hawaii, and Porto Rico—to put their respective houses in order, and adapt their cost of production to the new conditions which would obtain when their sugar was no longer protected by a tariff wall. These industries had been built up on protection, and by it, and by the preferential treatment accorded to Cuban sugar, the United States had secured for its people a certain supply of sugar. In fact, so successful had been the stimulus applied to the several industries that Cuba, by far the biggest sugar producing country in the world, not excepting India, is now capable of contributing surplus sugars to the world's markets. It was considered by PRES-

DENT WILSON and his party that these industries, brought up on a protection of £8 per ton, would be able to continue their prosperous career when this protection was withdrawn, and as the result the American people would be able to obtain sugar proportionately cheaper. Since the war broke out, there are probably many points on which PRESIDENT WILSON has had to change his views, and one of these is certainly that of sugar. He has seen the sugar supply of a large consuming country which failed to secure its requirements from its own colonies by fair treatment, become suddenly deprived of 60 per cent. of its supply, and he has also seen the people of that country condemned to pay a high price for their sugar from the same cause. In addition, there has been a falling revenue in the United States, and now, although there has been no official announcement on the subject, it is understood in official circles that the freeing of sugar from Customs duty will not take place on the 1st of May next year. In the British West Indies this will cause disappointment. The sugar proprietors of those colonies were looking forward to the open competition which would result in American markets—a competition materially assisted by the falling-off in production which would result from free sugar in the United States sugar industries themselves. But the decision of the United States Government is, in the circumstances, the only one at which it could have arrived if it wished to continue a secure supply of one of its most important articles of food, and we trust that in like manner our Government will not only take its own lesson to heart, but also that of the United States, and by preferential treatment to the sugars of British colonies provide a permanent supply of British sugar for the British people. That this is possible the enquiries instituted by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has well shown. The preferential treatment required is not the high protective figure of the United States, but the comparatively small amount necessary to place British and Continental sugars on a competitive level in the home market, a treatment which in the last Budget has been legalised to the producers of home-grown beet sugar.

### AGRICULTURE IN MAURITIUS.

UNFORTUNATELY, it is not always that tropical agricultural reports afford such satisfactory reading as that of the Department of Agriculture of Mauritius for the year 1914. That colony—in the same manner as the other colonies under the direct ægis of the Colonial Office, dependent mainly upon sugar for their existence—has gone through much trouble during the last twenty years.

Economic as well as natural causes have made the lot of the Mauritian planter in the past a hard one. But by energy and resource, by bringing the agriculture and manufacture up to and maintaining it at a high level, he has overcome his difficulties, and is now reaping the reward of his pluck and tenacity. War prices and a record crop, says MR. STOCKDALE, the Director of Agriculture, increased the monetary value of the last crop by nearly 30,000,000 Rs. (£2,000,000), and placed the industry on a very strong financial basis, and still further improvements in machinery may be anticipated. As might be expected, the bulk of the report is taken up by an account of matters connected with the sugar industry. Out of the 153,416 arpents—an arpent is practically the same as our acre—under sugar cultivation at the beginning of the year, 92,514 arpents were cultivated by estates and 60,902 arpents by farmers, and the quantity cultivated by East Indians amounted to 54,887.5 arpents, or 35.77 per cent. of the whole. During the year the area under cane cultivation was increased, but the report does not give the extent of the increase. The actual crop of sugar reaped was 277,167 tons, or 31.5 per cent. above the average crop of the previous three years, 164,000 tons of which were purchased by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on behalf of the British Government. As regards cultivation and manufacture, MR. STOCKDALE'S remarks are of the greatest interest. It is recorded that the White Tanna cane suffered throughout the colony from stem deterioration, and that there was evidence that the power of resistance of this magnificent cane to red-rot was declining, and that the managers were substituting other varieties on their plantations. Perronet seedling 131 was a variety being largely used for this purpose in the Moka district, while a striped sport of the White Tanna was giving very satisfactory results on one estate. The other varieties well spoken of, and the cultivation of which was being extended, were D 130, D 625, and Seedling 30. The Uba cane had given good results with lands of low fertility. As regards implemental tillage, there had been during the year a considerable diminution of disc ploughing on account of the subsoil turned up by this operation affecting the subsequent growth of the cane. The double-mould plough, however, was a general favourite, and the use of subsoil ploughs had been extended, their results having been most satisfactory. The number of factories at work during the year was 59, and in these there had been comparatively small changes in machinery for the crop under review. Improvements in the furnace department were made with advantage at some factories, the triple circulation furnace with long combustion chambers and automatic feed having given satisfactory results. The Messchaert mill grooves had been adopted at one factory with results which "appeared to warrant a further extension of the system," while closer attention had been given to the question of application of water of imbibition, in which there appeared to be room for much improvement. The acknowledged weakness in the vacuum pan department,

a general characteristic of Mauritius factories, was being remedied, while the number of crystallisers was being increased. Considerable attention had also been given to clarifying agents, and MR. STOCKDALE reports that phosphogelose had been tried on one estate, that albusite had given very satisfactory results on other estates, and that phosphate of soda was "generally appreciated on the two estates on which it was tried." The cane juice during the crop was not, on the whole, of good working quality. During the greater part of the crop the juices were poor in sucrose and low in purity, and while the estates on the coast lands and the lower part of Plaines Wilhelms yielded good extractions, those on the upper plateaux had very poor juices to manipulate. Of the minor industries, MR. STOCKDALE on the whole gives a favourable account. The closing of the Hamburg market by the war gave a considerable set-back to the aloes fibre industry, and for several months only two factories were at work. Gradually, however, the English market began to enquire for Mauritius fibre, and at the close of the year several factories had re-commenced operations. Good crops of tea were obtained during 1914, and an effort was being made to find an outlet for this commodity. There had been a small extension of areas under coconuts, and the plants put in had grown satisfactorily under somewhat adverse conditions as regards weather. Cacao did well in Grand Port, but MR. STOCKDALE speaks of improvements in curing as being desirable. While there was every prospect of an increase in the coffee industry, the cultivation methods employed were not what they should be. The vanilla market had been practically closed by the war. The extent to which these minor industries are dependent on sugar is well evidenced by MR. STOCKDALE'S remarks on this subject: "A series of abundant years for sugar-cane with satisfactory prices has improved the financial position of all the agricultural undertakings in the colony," a remark which West Indian experience thoroughly endorses.

Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second the names of candidates for election. There is no entrance fee, and the present is a favourable opportunity of joining the Committee. The subscriptions of members elected between now and the close of the year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. The Secretary will always be glad to send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 18s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Censor for publication.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee at 15, Seething Lane, on Thursday, November 11th. The other members present were: Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. G. Carrington, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D. Spooner, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

A resolution expressing regret at the death of Mr. E. A. Agar, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee since 1899, appreciation of his able and loyal services on behalf of the Colony, and condolence with Mrs. Agar and the family, was carried unanimously.

The following new members were admitted:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
His Excellency Hon. W. L. Allardyce, C.M.G. (Bahamas)	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Sir Wm. Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G.	{ Mr. George Carrington. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell
His Hon. A. C. Robinson (Cayman Islands)	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell Mr. R. Rutherford.
Captain Alan Hotham, R.N.	{ Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G. Mr. A. N. Lubbock.
Mr. Samuel S. A. Cambridge	{ Mr. R. Parkinson Goffe. Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. G. D. Stone	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell Mr. T. Greenwood.
Hon. James Cran, M.L.C., M.D. (British Honduras)	{ Hon. S. Wolffsohn. Mr. F. A. de Pass.
Mr. Edward Scarlett Galbraith (Jamaica)	{ Mr. F. A. de Pass. Mr. Joseph Rippon.
Dr. Cecil M. Rolston, M.D., C.M. (Nevis)	{ Mr. E. Williams. Mr. J. Spencer Hollings.
Mr. George E. Grabham (British Honduras)	{ Mr. W. Douro Hoare. Mr. Edward Paice.
Mr. Edward W. Baynes	{ Mr. W. Middleton Campbell Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. A. McConnell.
Major G. A. Porter	{ Mr. T. Greenwood. Mr. C. A. Campbell.
Mr. Thomas R. Whitley	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. James A. Dougall (Jamaica)	{ Mr. F. M. Kerr Jarrett. Messrs. H. J. and A. Kerr. Mr. Bernard Bonyun.
Mr. Athelstan Watson	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mt. Eugène G. Bennett (British Guiana)	{ Mrs. Vanier. Mr. W. A. Boyd.
Mr. J. H. Lauer <small>General Manager of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. of Canada, Ltd.</small> (Montreal)	{ Mr. O. Rochs. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell.

A discussion took place regarding the British Guiana Immigration Fund.

How big Lord Kitchener looms on the horizon of our people was demonstrated anew by the shock given to public opinion when the news was circulated last week that he had resigned. Confidence was, however, at once restored by the official announcement that his absence from the War Office was temporary, and that he was on his way to the Near East to give that important area of operations the benefit of his unrivalled experience and knowledge gained on the spot. The *Globe*, which, after the first official denial of the rumour, boldly reasserted it, has been suspended by the military authorities. Meanwhile, a sign that there is to be a greater unity of direction in Allied strategy was the recent visit of General Joffre to London.

## The New Front.

In Serbia there is one feature which should be noted. Much of the country is open. Since our gallant little Ally was unable to fortify her northern frontier for lack of the necessary guns, the Germans were able to force the passages of the Danube and to advance from the hilly country to the north-east with comparative ease. They are now in the valleys of the Morava and Timok, where a million men can operate with freedom for the wings. In other words, the warfare in Serbia is not of the siege character, which has practically held up the Allied armies for a year in the West, but of the type which gave us the victory of the Marne. For instance, British cavalry has distinguished itself in the South, and Austrian cavalry in the West, after a manner worthy of the reputation of the French cavalry under Murat.

King Peter and his Government have been obliged to leave Nish as they left Belgrade, and are now at Krushevo, near Monastir. The army is being forced into a threatening angle, from which at the worst, however, it can escape to the mountains of the south-west, or into Montenegro or Albania. The Austro-Germans are pressing southwards towards Novi-Bazar and Nish, and have effected a junction with the Bulgarian right advancing from the valley of the Timok, so that Mackensen is half-way as the crow flies to Salonika. Apparently "the Prussians of the Balkans" have seconded the wonderful strategic energy of the Central Powers in the north by able flank and turning movements in the east. But what of the Allies? They hold Krivolac, near Veles, on the railway, with their right wing extending to the Bulgarian frontier south of Strumitza, and their left co-operating with the Serbians, who are defending the Babuna Pass and the road to Monastir as desperately as they opposed Gallwitz in the hilly country east of the Morava. The main Serbian army, even if it escapes the concerted movements of Mackensen and Bodjadef by retreating into the area between the Morava and Western

Morava, will still be exposed to peril from the combined action of both, besides being threatened by the Austrians, whose advance has, so far, been checked by the Montenegrins.

The open nature of the country has favoured the enemy during the past week, but when he reaches the mountainous region which he is now approaching, and is deprived of his heavy artillery, the Serbians may be trusted to take to guerilla warfare. Though the Austrians are sure to be well supplied with mountain guns and light howitzers, none of the enemy's troops on this front can have had any experience in the kind of fighting which the hardy Serbians, knowing every inch of the ground, will force upon them.

#### The French Force in the Balkans.

This is under the command of General Sarraill, who in the dark days of August, 1914, after the retreat from Mons, was largely responsible for the prevention of a disaster by holding up the Crown Prince's army in the Woevre and Belgian Luxembourg. It is therefore certain that he will do all that is humanly possible to help the Serbians with the forces at his disposal. The British force is under the command of General Munro, and fresh contingents are being landed every day. It remains to be seen whether we can enable the greater part of the Serbian Army to fall back on its Allies and maintain itself in the south and south-west of the country as long as the military situation requires it.

#### On the Italian Front.

In the Italian zones the Austrians are being steadily attacked at every available point. Many minor successes have been gained and consolidated during the past few weeks, culminating in the capture of the Col di Lana, in the Dolomites. It is a strong and towering position 8,070 feet high, which the Italians have been fighting to win since July last. So firmly does its possession establish our Ally in the Cordevole district, enabling her forces to dominate the Austrian fortifications of Arabba and Chertz, that it is regarded as the most striking episode which has up to now occurred on this front. That, indirectly, Serbia is being aided by the detention of the Austrian corps on the Trieste-Laybach line is clear enough, for Laybach, by way of Agram and Essek, is about 160 miles as the crow flies from Belgrade. But such help is not sufficient to save Serbia or to ensure in Macedonia a decisive victory over the Germano-Bulgarians. Then her operations in the Alps only absorb one-third of the large forces which Italy has at her disposal. Yet her interest in the Balkans is second to none, and her troops could advance in the enemy's flank with comparative ease along the only good road in Albania—from Santa Quarantia, opposite Brindisi, to Monastir, from which communications would facilitate their junction with the Anglo-French army in Southern Serbia. The local command of the sea could be quickly established against the attacks of Austrian submarines. It is, of course,

possible that Italy has not been able to obtain the goodwill of the Albanians necessary to the success of such a move.

#### The War at Sea.

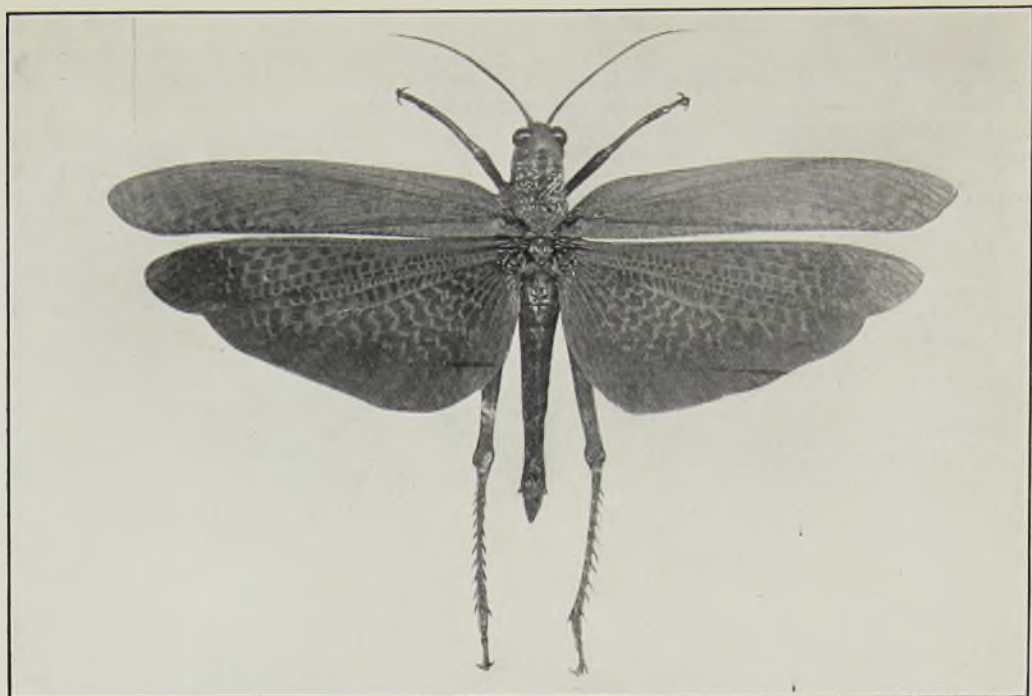
With regard to sea power, our Empire has been able brilliantly to counter-stroke German submarine activity. In the Baltic and the Dardanelles the powers of offence and defence developed by our submersible craft are deeply embarrassing to the enemy. Moreover, our blockades, and, when it suits us, bombardments of hostile forts and ports are as complete, and nearly as ubiquitous, as in the Napoleonic Wars. The latest of our enemies, Bulgaria, already feels the grip of the Navy all along her Black Sea coast, and at Dedeagatch, her window on the Ægean Sea, and terminus of her strategic railway, the weight of our shells, which can be thrown a day's march inland from our ships with accuracy. Neither have we the slightest difficulty in transporting troops. With the greatest ease and facility they are moved from the West to the East Indies, and from Oceania to the Levant.

The Prime Minister has announced that up to October 26th British submarines operating against enemy vessels in the Sea of Marmora had succeeded in sinking or damaging two battleships, five gunboats, one torpedo-boat, eight transports, and 197 supply ships of all kinds.

There are several naval losses to record in the Mediterranean area, the *Hythe*, an auxiliary sweeper, and torpedo-boat No. 96, sunk by collision, and the transport *Ramazan* and the armed boarding steamer *Tara* by submarine attack, involving a loss of several hundred lives, including 300 Indian troops. The Germans are evidently trying to divert the attention of the public from losses in the Baltic by activity in the Mediterranean. Their latest feat was to torpedo the *Ancona*, an Italian liner crowded with emigrants, including many women and children and twenty-five American citizens. The submarine concerned hoisted the Austrian flag, but as the official account was issued in Berlin, it is difficult not to hold Germany responsible. It should be remembered that she is not yet at war with Italy. The British submarine *E20* has been sunk in the Sea of Marmora, and nine of her crew have been interned. The destroyer *Louis*, of the L class, has been stranded, and is a total loss. In the Baltic the Germans have lost another of their small cruisers, the *Undine*, which, while she was engaged in patrol duties, was torpedoed by a British submarine.

#### The American Note.

This document has been read by our people with disappointment. It is not worthy of the greatest neutral power, when half the world is ablaze and civilisation fighting for its life. There is not a sign in it that Mr. Wilson's Government takes a broader view of the situation than the material interest of the United States. Even that is supported by precedents and legal quibblings which have little bear-



A LOCUST FROM BRITISH GUIANA.



DEPARTURE OF TRINIDAD RECRUITS FROM PORT OF SPAIN.

ing on the realities of the present war. Apparently Great Britain is expected to conduct the operations at sea without any reference to what Germany as a belligerent does. The most important clause in the Note declares that "It is incumbent upon the United States . . . to give his Britannic Majesty's Government notice that the blockade which they claim to have instituted under the Order in Council of March 11th cannot be recognised as a legal blockade by the United States." But no such blockade was instituted, the purpose of the Order in Council of March 11th having been to free the "juridical niceties" which prevented it from intercepting the sea-borne supplies of the enemy. That Scandinavian ports are open to him is no longer true, British submarines paralysing his commerce in the Baltic. But even as things were when the Note was written, the blockade of Germany by Great Britain was more effective than the blockade of the South by the North in the Civil War, for, on paper, it extended to Mexico. Yet no protest was made by this country, though the cotton industry in Lancashire was temporarily ruined. The weakness of the American position is suggested by the complaint that American ships are sent into port for examination instead of being searched at sea, and that the British Prize Court admits evidence external to the ship's papers, cargo, and company. At the same time, the Note gratuitously confesses that irregularities are being committed by American traders. The United States is not playing the game.

(To be continued.)

## THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. Edgar Tripp writes from Port of Spain, Trinidad:—"The map of the West Indies issued by the West India Committee is plain, useful and informative, and is excellent for reference in the office of my firm. It also hangs in the rooms of the Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce, where the same opinion is voiced by the members. *All our schools ought to be provided with it.*"

The special price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the educational authorities in the West Indies is 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions; and 8s. 6d. per copy, or 8s. 9d. post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are connected with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.

## THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

### Royal Patronage Accorded.

Princess Marie Louise has graciously consented to become Patron of the Ladies' Committee which, as already stated, has been formed under the Presidency of the Countess of Stamford, and with Miss Moseley, of the Bahamas, as Hon. Secretary, at 5, Trevor Square. Her Highness will attend the inaugural meeting, which will be held at an early date.

The West Indian Contingent Fund now amounts to £2,580 13s. 9d. In view of the fact that the men coming over will number at least 5,000 in all, it is clear that a larger sum will be needed, and it is hoped that readers of the CIRCULAR will assist the efforts of the Committee towards securing it. Subscriptions continue to come in satisfactorily, and readers can greatly help by interesting their friends in it, to raise the fund to a much higher figure. Since the last list was published, the following contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Gordon Grant and Co., Ltd. . . . .	200	0	0
Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd. . . . .	105	0	0
The Grenada Local Contingent Committee . . . . .	100	0	0
H. Joce Charley, Esq. . . . .	50	0	0
The Alliance Assurance Co., Ltd. . . . .	26	5	0
The Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O. . . . .	25	0	0
John D. Sellier, Esq. . . . .	25	0	0
Messrs. Law & Conneil . . . . .	10	0	0
A. R. C. Lockhart, Esq. . . . .	10	0	0
Samuel Manning, Esq. . . . .	10	0	0
W. Baggett Gray, Esq. . . . .	5	5	0
Theodore Brooks, Esq. . . . .	5	0	0
The Earl of Dundonald, K.C.B., K.C.V.O. . . . .	5	0	0
D. G. Simpson, Esq. . . . .	5	0	0
D. M. Simpson, Esq. . . . .	5	0	0
The Grenada Local Contingent Committee (earmarked for Kenneth B. Andrews, Simpson Joseph, and W. H. Mason) . . . . .	4	10	0
Capt. J. B. Saunders . . . . .	3	3	0
Eugène G. Bennett, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0
Dugald McPhail, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0
R. Rust, Esq. (earmarked for Pte. Billouin) . . . . .	2	0	0
Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B. . . . .	1	1	0
The Daily Sketch (earmarked for Bahamas Contingent) . . . . .	1	1	0
Hon. J. M. Rosado, M.E.C. . . . .	1	1	0
Rev. A. H. Anstey, D.D. . . . .	1	0	0
Mrs. Howell-Jones . . . . .	1	0	0
G. H. Pairedeau, Esq. . . . .	1	0	0
R. Parkinson Goffe, Esq. . . . .	10	6	
Oliver W. Warner, Esq. . . . .	10	0	

The object of the Fund is to enable the Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort of the men of the Bermudian and West Indian Contingents, as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come over to fight for their King and Country. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

There has been no meeting of the Contingent Committee during the fortnight, but work in connection with it has been proceeding.



It is requested that all gifts of comforts for the men of the B.W.I.'s may be forwarded carriage paid to Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, S.W., and correspondence for the West Indian Contingent Committee addressed as heretofore to the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

What is most needed at the moment is gloves, gloves, and more gloves. The men at Seaford naturally feel the cold acutely, and are urgently in need of warm woollen gloves, gifts of which will be duly acknowledged. During the last fortnight the following have been gratefully received:—

From Miss Goffe and Miss Geach: 8 pairs mittens.  
Per Mrs. Cunningham Craig, from Mrs. Vaughan Elliott, Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Beaumont Wood, Mrs. M. H. Gifford, Mrs. Horace Huggins, Mrs. Dixon Davies, H. G. Bocket Pugh, Esq., Leo Alexander, Esq., and "Anonymous": 27 vests, 6 scarves, 28 pairs socks, 14 pairs mittens, 8 pairs gloves, 1 helmet.

In forwarding a donation of £10 to the West Indian Contingent Committee, Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, of Dominica, writes:—

"I think that the contribution of the West Indies to the war in men and money will be as large as the Imperial Government may care to ask. The loyalty and the passionate devotion of all classes of our population to the British cannot be doubted. You have only to put us to the test to see what we are capable of."

### THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

In Battalion Orders of the West Indian Contingent dated November 6th the following extract from the *London Gazette* of October 26th was published:—

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the formation of a Corps from Contingents of the inhabitants of the West India Islands to be entitled "The British West Indies Regiment."

The adoption of this official title has given general satisfaction.

The advantage of the existence of the West Indian Contingent Committee received practical demonstration on November 9th, when a detachment of forty-two men of the British West Indies Regiment, under Major Golding and Captain Cavanaugh, came up to London to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show. At the, for London, early hour of 9.30 the men, who had been met by representatives of the Committee at London Bridge, invaded the West India Committee Rooms, where they enjoyed half an hour's rest and were regaled with Jamaica cigarettes and chocolate.

Later in the morning, while the procession was halted, they were given sausage rolls and meat pies, and before their return to Seaford they enjoyed a substantial meal at the expense of the Committee at Wellington Barracks, arrangements to that end having been made at very short notice through the courtesy of Captain Massey, of the War Office. The detachment was representative of all the colo-

nies whose contingents had arrived excepting the Leeward Islands. The men from that group before only reached England a few days before after a tempestuous voyage, and, not having received their full kit, could not be included.

Lord Mayor's Day was, unfortunately, most inclement. Steady rain fell from an early hour, and it is to be feared that the first impression which the West Indians were afforded of the great Metropolis could not have been very favourable. But the procession was essentially a businesslike one, composed as it was of representatives of all branches of His Majesty's Forces, who were gathered together more with the object of assisting the recruiting movement than anything else, and the public, mindful, perhaps, of their friends and relations in the rain-sodden tranches in Flanders, faced the elements bravely.

There could be no mistaking the cordiality of the reception afforded to the West Indians, who not unnaturally were the observed of all observers. Within the compass of the CIRCULAR it is not possible to quote all the Press comments, but the following are typical of them:—

A touch of Empire was added by the little contingent of West Indian soldiers.—*The Daily Graphic*.

Among the loudest cheers were those that followed the dusky men of the West Indies all along the line.—*Daily Express*.

A company from the West Indian Contingent, which included many coloured men, got a specially hearty cheer.—*The Times*.

The dusky faces of the smiling West Indians made one forget that colour has ever been a racial barrier.—*The Daily Chronicle*.

A small detachment of coloured troops from the West Indies, big men all, their eyes rolling with pleasure at the reception given them.—*The Standard*.

And then a little company of the British West Indian Contingent, swartly warriors new to the scene, but with glinting eyes accepting the splendid welcome of London's thousands.—*Evening Standard*.

Among the West Indians was a detachment of "coloured" men, giants all of them, who naturally drew much attention. The whole group of detachments gave a thrilling Imperial touch to the show.—*The Westminster Gazette*.

There were dark faces, too, marching in this rally of the Empire. A sturdy party of the British West Indian Contingent was there to remind us once again that loyalty under the English flag is no matter of race.—*The Daily Telegraph*.

Still more and more to come. All the civilised warriors of the world seemed to be represented here, marching across the City's historic square mile, and when the West Indians appeared—all huge and mighty men of valour, black as night, with their white teeth flashing, the picture reminded one somewhat of a scene from "Salammbô".—*Daily News and Leader*.

### The Fortnight at Seaford.

The fortnight at Seaford has passed quietly, with the usual routine of drill, physical training, etc. In Sergeant-Major Stone the Regiment has an instructor of many attainments. A veteran of the South African War, during which he served in the West Riding Regiment, receiving the Queen's and King's Medals, he was subsequently attached to the gymnastic staff at Aldershot. With the men he is a great favourite, and he is equally fond of the

men. He accompanied the detachment to London on Lord Mayor's Day, and was largely responsible for their smart appearance.

In the Army great importance is attached to the physical condition of the men, and Sergeant-Major Stone will now have more help towards securing the maintenance of this at a high level, Acting-Sergeant Wishart and Acting-Corporal Chalmers, both of "A" Company, having rejoined the battalion after a course of training at Aldershot, with certificates of "good" and "very fair" respectively. Second Lieutenant R. P. Johnstone and Acting-Sergeant Mitchell are now attending a similar course. Captain Cavanaugh, Lieut. Challenor, and Second Lieutenants Gooden-Chisholm, Lewson, Thomson, and Wheeler have completed a course of training with the Brigade Officers' Corps. Acting-Sergeant Francois, of "B" Company, has completed a course of Pioneering at Wrotham.

While writing of courses, it may be added that for the further betterment of the inner man of the soldiers, Privates Beaton, Crawford, Ramsay, Babb, Alleyne, Lucas, Humphrey, Wharwood, Johnson, and Prescott have been sent to Greenwich to attend a course of instruction in cookery.

The sick list has been very light, considering the wretched weather, and the health of the men is steadily improving. Another death has, however, to be recorded, Private N. Phillips, of Trinidad, having succumbed to heart-failure in his hut on November 8th. Like his fellow-soldier Primo, of British Guiana, he was buried with full military honours.

Captain W. H. G. Thorne has been temporarily indisposed, and his duties with "E" Company have been carried on by Second Lieutenant Gooden-Chisholm; Captain Harragin is on sick leave. Privates Lyken, Moore, Mitchell, Hale, Roberts, Fraser, Davis, Duncan, Darrell, Casimir, Parsley, Antoine, and Corbin have all passed through the hospital.

SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE has been given a very cordial "send-off" on relinquishing the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, which he has administered since 1909. Among all classes of the community he enjoyed well-merited personal popularity, and his return to this country will be a distinct gain to the West Indian community on this side of the Atlantic. It is understood that Sir George will be invited to become a member of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee, while Lady Le Hunte has already consented to act on the Ladies' Committee of that body.

In August last 5,423,840 lbs. of cacao were shipped through the Panama Canal from South Pacific ports. During the same month there was sent by the new route 48,497 tons of sugar, of which 974 tonseane from Peru for transshipment at Cristobal, 9,750 tons from the Philippine Islands for New York, and 37,773 tons from the Hawaiian Islands for Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

## THE SWISS CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY.

### A Successful Co-operative Movement.

A Swiss chocolate industry which gives employment to 6,000 hands in fourteen works, had a very small beginning. According to the "Confectioners' Union," it originated as a sort of coster business, the working plant, which comprised a pestle and mortar being wheeled about on a barrow.

The chocolate maker frequented fairs and markets, and his raw materials were mainly cocoa, sugar, and cinnamon. Sometimes, if big occasion warranted it, he concocted more ambitious chocolate cakes. Here, for instance, is one of the oldest recipes extant translated into English weights:—

Take 700 cacao beans, 1 lb. sugar, 7 oz. cinnamon, 14 grains pimento, 2 oz. cloves, 3 pieces of vanilla, or 7 oz. aniseed.

In those days chocolate was an irregular article of commerce, and was most decidedly not for the peasant small boy.

The first chocolate works—and this was only a tiny concern—was opened in 1810. Other works succeeded gradually, and increased in size, but chocolate long remained a luxury outside the reach of the poorer classes. Little by little, however, the means of communication with the cacao-growing countries was facilitated, and the sugar industry developed. Clever brains occupied themselves with the methods and means of manufacture, and the daintiest of all sweetmeats at last came within the reach of the slenderest purse.

Then the capitalist discovered chocolate, and, everything being in its favour, the industry began to move forward with accelerating speed. In the last twenty years it has gathered momentum as the result of organisation, co-operation, and persistent advertisement. Co-operation furnishes abundant capital, and prevents cutting, while it rather promotes competition than otherwise. After beer and boots, the Swiss chocolate industry has best realised predictions as to the potentialities of concentration. This is very apparent when we note that, whereas production has increased 51,000,000 francs in the value of the output, between 1902 and 1912, the number of factories and of workmen employed has diminished. The small factories, owned by a single man, or two in partnership, have amalgamated, and have become limited companies, with largely increased capital and much bigger works. The firms that resisted this movement of concentration have either disappeared or vegetated.

Wide and liberal advertisement has spread the fame of Swiss chocolate to the ends of the earth, and the exportations increase by leaps and bounds. From something less than six million francs in 1898, it reached over thirty million in 1905. Since that date progress has been almost as rapid. The value exported in 1910 was 38,400,000 francs, which by 1912 had grown to 53,000,000 francs. Australia's purchases in 1910 were valued at about 1,000,000 francs, and in two years they were increased seven-fold.

The Swiss have shown that they fully appreciate the good qualities of their own products by an equally large increase in the home consumption. The home trade in chocolate was about 15,000,000 francs in 1912, which gives a total production for that year of 68,000,000 francs, and this figure has been heavily increased since.

### LOCUSTS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

By G. E. BODKIN, B.A., F.E.S., F.Z.S.

Coco-nut palms in the upper portions of the Courantyne Coast, Berbice, British Guiana, were attacked in August this year by the locust *Tropidacris latreillei* Perty. The winged adult is a large and exceedingly beautiful insect with a wing expanse of some eight inches. The forewings are a slaty blue in colour, lined and blotched with canary yellow, and the hind wings are a bright red bordered with black. The nymphal or "hopper" stages exhibit much the same colours as the adults, though of course no wings are present. From previous records and the evidence of inhabitants in these parts, it appears that this pest has been endemic for at least the last fifty years, though only occasionally it appears in large numbers and causes serious damage.

The writer observed a few of these insects in the early months of the year, but the main attack was first reported by His Excellency the Governor while on a visit to the district. Quite 80 per cent. of the palms on the coast were entirely defoliated, and many of the older trees will die from the shock. The younger trees will lose one entire crop of nuts.

The natural food-plant of this pest is *Quassia* (*Quassia Amara*), which is a commonly occurring plant, especially in the back lands. There is little doubt that the locusts came originally from the virgin forests, and gradually made their way to the coast, and in the absence of their natural food cultivated a taste for the foliage of the coco-nut palm.

A regrettable feature of the attack was the apathetic manner in which the villagers treated the presence of the pest. A grant of money was made by the Government to assist these people to destroy the locusts, but the majority of them refused to work for money and their own interests combined. A large gang of small East Indian boys was formed, and by this means the badly infested areas were freed from locusts. The insects were collected in kerosene tins, burnt in deep holes in the ground, and finally well covered with earth.

"Coco-nut Cultivation," by Coghlan and Hinchley (3s. 6d.), and "Coco-nuts, the Consols of the East," by Hamel Smith (10s. 6d.), are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Both deal with coco-nut pests and their prevention, *inter alia*.

### A FOOTNOTE TO THE LIFE OF NELSON.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

In the *Royal Gazette*, published in Kingston in 1780, in the issue for May 13th to May 20th, the following reference to Nelson occurs:—

#### A CARD.

CAPTAIN HARRISON and the rest of the Regular Officers at the Camp before *St. John's Castle*, return their most sincere Thanks to Capt. NELSON of his Majesty's Ship *Hinchinbroke*, for his very polite Behaviour and Attention to them during their passage from Jamaica.

Camp before *St. John's Castle*.  
April 29, 1780.

This announcement evidently came up from Nicaragua to Jamaica in the sloop *Victor*, which brought Nelson with dispatches for the Governor, General Dalling, from Colonel Polson, who, in his report, says:—

"Captain Nelson of the *Hinchinbroke* came up, on the first of May, with 34 seamen, and 1 serjeant and 12 marines; I want words to express the obligations I owe that gentleman, he was the first on every service whether by day or night and there was scarcely a gun fired but was pointed by him, or Lieut. Despard chief engineer, who has exerted himself on every occasion; I am persuaded if our shot had held out we should have had the fort a week sooner. As Captain Nelson goes to Jamaica, he can inform you of every delay and point of service as well as I could, for he knows my very thoughts."

The Lieutenant Despard referred to was later Colonel Edward Marcus Despard, who superintended the defences of Jamaica when it was threatened by de Grasse. He was in turn Commandant of Ruatan, off the Mosquito Coast, and of Yucatan. Charged with plotting against the Government, he was hanged for high treason in 1803, in spite of the fact that his old companion in arms, Nelson, gave valuable evidence in his favour.

In the same number of the *Royal Gazette* it is stated that "Last Saturday the Spanish colours taken at the Castle of St. Juan were displayed under the British colours before the King's House in Spanish-Town and a *Feu de Joie* fired by the 60th regiment, on account of the surrender of that fortress to his Majesty's arms. . . . And in the evening the same ceremony was performed on the parade in this town (Kingston) by that part of the 79th regiment quartered here. . . . At noon also the forts fired a royal salute."

MR. W. E. JACKSON, First Assistant Secretary of Uganda, son of the late Sir Henry Jackson, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Bermuda in succession to Mr. R. Popham Lobb.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Some further names of those connected with the West Indies who are serving their country are given below.

Arrindell, Captain W. May (son of C. May Arrindell, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Cawnpore, and grandson of the Rev. — Arrindell, of Trinidad and Barbados), Royal Warwickshire Regiment. *At the front.*

Arrindell, Lieut. D. May (son of C. May Arrindell, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Cawnpore, and grandson of the Rev. — Arrindell, of Trinidad and Barbados), 11th Reserve Cavalry, Tidworth Barracks, Hants.

Berkeley, Reginald Cheyne Hardtman (Barrister-at-Law, Suva, Fiji, son of the late Humphry George Hardtman Berkeley, of Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), 5th Batt. Rifle Brigade.

Bourke, G. Wellesley (son of the late Mr. Wellesley Bourke, solicitor, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Engineers.

Clarke, A. W. (son of Mr. T. F. Clarke, of Kingston, Jamaica), Honourable Artillery Company.

Duncan, Private David Cyril (son of Mr. R. G. Duncan, late of Demerara), The London Scottish.

Farquharson, Lieut. De H. C. (District Medical Officer, Black River, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Irving, Lieut. J. F. Curtis, Campbell and Co., Demerara, eldest son of M. H. C. Irving, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), 3rd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Irving, Lieut. T. H. (second son of M. H. C. Irving, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), British Guiana Contingent.

Gilbert, Sergeant J. M. D. (son of Mr. James Gilbert, of Caroni Estate, Trinidad), 1st/2nd Highland Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Marchallick, K. Croll (of St. Thomas, Jamaica), Royal Flying Corps.

Seale, Private Gordon (of Barbados), The Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles.

Howell-Jones, Miss C. (youngest daughter of the late Hon. B. Howell-Jones, C.M.G., and of Mrs. Howell-Jones, late of Demerara), Military Camp Hospital in France.

Watson-Taylor, 2nd Lieut. F. J. (Estates' proprietor, Jamaica), Wiltshire Yeomanry.

### Died of Sickness.

2nd Lieutenant Cecil G. Weitzmann, of the 4th Batt. South Staffordshire Regiment, who was the youngest son of Mr. G. H. Weitzmann, of Upper Norwood, and late of Kingston, Jamaica, died in France on September 25th.

### Wounded.

Storr, Captain Leycester Penrhu (Dominica Estates' proprietor), 12th King's Liverpool Regiment, has been wounded in France.

Temple, Bertram, of the Gloucester Regiment was wounded on September 25th, and is now in Guy's Hospital.

### Honours and Promotions.

Austin, Lieut.-Colonel John Gardiner (son of the late Mr. John Gardiner Austin, of Emore, Barbados), Ordnance Officer attached to the Australian Forces has been awarded a C.M.G. for distinguished services in Gallipoli.

Major J. H. Howell-Jones, now on the Staff of the 8th Army Corps, son of the late Hon. B. Howell-Jones, and of Mrs. Howell-Jones, late of Demerara, was mentioned for the second time in Despatches from the Dardanelles on November 6th, and was gazetted in the Honours List on November 8th, as Companion of the D.S.O.

### Alterations and Corrections.

Berkeley, Thomas Berkeley Hardtman (Barrister-at-Law, Suva, Fiji, son of the late Humphry George Hardtman Berkeley, of Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), 3rd Suffolk Regiment. *in France.*

Douet, Nurse Constance (of Jamaica), British Red Cross. Glegg, 2nd Lieut. George Stanley (eldest son of the late Mr. Robert Glegg, of Nevis, and of Mrs. Mary E. B. Dobridge, of St. Kitts), The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Promoted from Lance Corporal in the Scottish Rifles.

Jones, 2nd Lieut. E. Parker (of Killarney, Westmorland, Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.

Wortley, 2nd Lieut. Maurice L. (son of Canon Wortley, of Jamaica), 3rd (attached 1st) Batt. Suffolk Regiment.

### Sick.

Oliver, 2nd Lieut. Guy (youngest son of Mr. Vere L. Oliver, Editor of *Caribbean*), of the 2nd Scots Guards, was the only surviving officer of his company after the battle of Loos, and has been given three months' sick leave.

### Missing.

Sweet-Escott, Lieut. Hugh Bevil (second son of Sir Rickham Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Windward Islands), of the Royal Engineers, has been missing in Flanders since the 2nd or 3rd of October.

## THE TRINIDAD MERCHANTS' CONTINGENT.

The young men sent over at the expense of a Committee of professional and business men to join the Army reached Tilbury under the command of Major Bowen at mid-day on Tuesday, November 2nd, and proceeded to St. Pancras. There they were met by Mr. G. F. Huggins, who had made arrangements for their reception with great thoroughness, and a detachment of the Royal Fusiliers with their bugle band, which escorted them to the Young Men's Christian Association in Tottenham Court Road, which became their headquarters.

On the following morning, headed by one of Lady Ashmore's recruiting bands, they marched via Holborn, Newgate Street, and Cheapside to the Mansion House, where they were inspected by the Lord Mayor, Colonel Sir Charles Johnston, who in the course of an address said to them, "You do credit not only to yourselves, but to the great Empire upon which the sun never sets." After partaking of refreshments in the Egyptian Hall, the men returned to their quarters by way of Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, and Kingsway.

In their eagerness to enlist these strapping young fellows, rival recruiting officers resorted to many expedients. One enterprising man joined the train before its arrival at St. Pancras and distributed recruiting literature regarding his particular unit with a lavish hand, while others were awaiting their arrival at the Y.M.C.A. The War Office had offered to enlist the men as a unit in the Rifle Brigade and the King's Royal Rifles, so that they might retain their identity as a Trinidad and Tobago half company, but those responsible thought it best to let them join what regiments

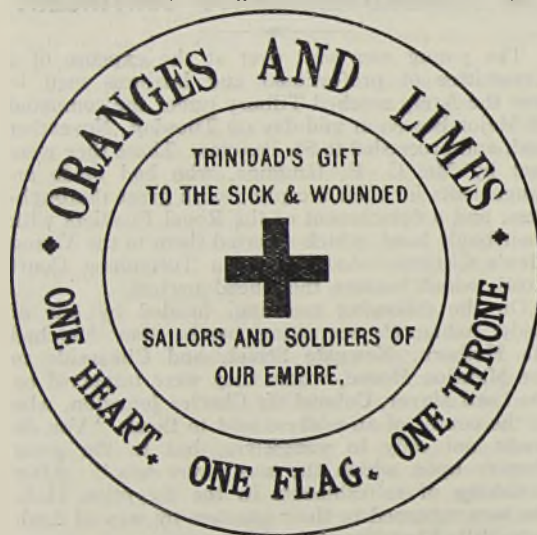
they liked, and the men have consequently been distributed among such corps as the London Scottish, King Edward's Horse, the Inns of Court and Artists' O.T.C., and the Royal Flying Corps. Hector Gellizeau, the boy who insisted upon accompanying the Contingent, though he is below the military age, has enlisted in the 2nd Life Guards as a bugler. In a future issue it is hoped to give a list of the men, giving the regiments in which they are serving.

The illustration on another page showing the scene at Port of Spain on the occasion of the departure of the Contingent, is from a photograph by Captain Randolph Rust.

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

The West India Committee has now been officially recognised by the Railway Executive Committee as a properly constituted organisation for the purpose of forwarding gifts to the troops overseas. Meanwhile the work of distributing gifts for the sick and wounded which they have carried on since the early days of the war is being actively continued.

The total number of packages distributed now amounts to over 7,670. The R.M.S. *Danube* (November 2nd) brought from the Dominica Agri-



cultural Society 89 packages of limes and oranges. Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Editor of the *West Indian*, sent a barrel of fruit. The R.M.S. *Berbice* (November 9th) brought from the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee 134 packages of limes, oranges, lime-juice, and coco-nut oil for the Sikhs' hair. A cask of Guava jelly has been received from Mr. F. Sworder, Tobago. Mrs. Brodie, Grenada, has sent a further case of comforts for the wounded. The SS. *Camilo* (November 7th) brought 186 packages of oranges, grape-fruit, preserves, clothing,

cigarettes, etc., from the Jamaica Agricultural Society. We give on this page a reproduction of the patriotic imprint on the paper wrappers of the oranges and limes sent over by the Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee.

Mr. McClean, of Waterford, Trinidad, collected and sent over 300 walking sticks for our wounded, the distribution of which has been undertaken by Lady Philipps.

### AT WESTMINSTER.

#### Our Imports of Cacao.

On November 3rd, Mr. Peto asked the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention had been called to the increase in the import of raw cacao from foreign countries and British possessions for the nine months ending September, 1915, as against the nine months ending September, 1914 (total 166,753,521 lbs. as against 70,991,743 lbs.); and what steps he was taking to prevent any of this cacao reaching the enemy as re-exports either in the raw or manufactured state.

Mr. Runciman, in reply, said that the imports of raw cacao in the first nine months of 1915 amounted to 162,362,000 lbs., as against 71,933,000 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1914. The exportation of both raw and manufactured cacao was prohibited to all neutral countries in Europe other than Spain and Portugal, except under licence issued by the War Trade Department.

#### The Cacao and Sugar Duties.

Replying to Mr. Lough on November 4th, Mr. Montagu gave the total Customs and Excise duty received in each of the months from March to October, 1914 and 1915, on coffee, cacao and sugar among other articles. The totals for the eight months were:—

	Coffee.	Cacao.	Sugar
	£	£	£
1914	120,900	204,700	2,158,800
1915	150,900	364,600	3,562,500

#### Insect Pests in Jamaica.

On November 9th Mr. King asked the Secretary for the Colonies whether he could give figures or other information showing the damage done to cattle in Jamaica by the grass louse or cattle tick; whether he was aware that the increasing damage due to these insects pests synchronised with the increased slaughter of birds for the plumage trade; and whether steps were being taken, by the protection of birds or otherwise, to preserve the Imperial source of food supply found in the grazing districts of Jamaica.

Mr. Bonar Law: I am not in possession of any figures on the subject, but the attention of the Governor of Jamaica was called to this matter in 1909 as a result of a deputation, received by the then Secretary of State in that year. As regards the last part of the question, a law was passed in Jamaica in 1914, as elsewhere in the Empire, for the protection of plumage birds.

#### "Humogen."

Replying to Mr. L. Harmsworth on November 9th, Mr. McKinnon Wood said that the Board of Agriculture for Scotland had been in communication with Professor Bottomley with a view to arranging for experiments with bacterised peat. [An article was devoted to Mr. Bottomley's discovery in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of October 19th.]

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," rs. (post free rs. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Scething Lane, London, E.C.

**COLONIAL REPORT.**

**Grenada's dependence on cacao.**

The report of Mr. Herbert Ferguson, Colonial Secretary of Grenada, on the Blue-book of the colony for 1914-15 shows that the financial stringency which followed the outbreak of war was relieved by the rise in price of cacao, there being several thousand peasant proprietors in the island so that the effect was felt all through the island. The Government is, however, alive to the danger of Grenada's dependence on cacao, the value of

have used during the past two years, and also by improved methods of cultivation. On the other hand the crop of the peasant proprietors is reported by the Agricultural Department to have fallen off considerably, thereby affecting the output of the island.

An increase in sugar-cane cultivation has taken place owing to the acquisition by a new proprietor of an estate in the south of the island which was formerly a noted sugar plantation, and the establishment of a mill capable of producing a sugar equal to the better kinds of muscovado sugar imported. The development of the sugar industry is restricted to the supply of the local market, as the lack of a sufficient area of cane lands alone makes it impossible for Grenada to compete in the open market with sugar-producing colonies; but as 1,963,330 lbs. of muscovado sugar to the value of £10,641 were imported last year, it will be seen that there is scope for a notable development of the industry for local purposes. A protective duty of 3d. per lb. which is in force further enhances the prospects of success in this direction.

In Carriacou 500 acres of lime trees are rapidly approaching the productive stage. At present the principal scale insect on limes in Carriacou is the Orange Snow Scale (*Chionaspis citri*), and this is being controlled by the use of insecticides. 2,375 gallons of concentrated lime juice, valued at £753, were exported in 1914, and for the first quarter of 1915 the exports were about 3,700 gallons, of the value of £1,265. Efforts are being made to introduce the cultivation into Grenada, and the Agricultural Department, under Mr. Moore, who has had considerable experience of the industry in St. Lucia, is establishing sufficient lime nurseries to meet the considerable demand for lime plants that is expected in 1915. The estimated area under limes in Grenada is 150 acres, and small areas are beginning to produce their first crop.

The financial position of the colony is very sound. The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years are given in the following table:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.*	Exports.*
	£	£	£	£
1910-11	81,413	75,561	279,236	291,760
1911-12	98,645	81,012	309,227	264,640
1912-13	86,393	84,059	278,875	285,590
1913-14	91,258	85,827	282,927	367,149
1914-15	92,347	94,457	272,126	333,374

\* Calendar years 1910-1914.

The expenditure was the highest on record, even though it only included £4,000 of the total sum of £10,000 voted to the Imperial War Funds. There remained, however, on March 31st, 1915, a comfortable surplus of £62,044 of assets over liabilities. A map of the island, which is reproduced on this page, accompanies the report.

SINCE the CIRCULAR last went to press, no further negotiations have taken place in regard to the mail service, and matters are at a standstill. The Post Office authorities are forwarding letters and parcels by any opportunities which may occur.



A MAP OF GRENADA FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT.

the exports of which in 1914 was at £280,308, while that of spices, the second industry in order of importance, was £36,892 only. A difficulty in the way of the development of subsidiary industries lies in the fact that the most fertile and accessible land is under cacao, and the progress with limes (except in the dependency of Carriacou) and coco-nuts can only be described as slight.

The large planters have been able to keep their crop up to the average in spite of the drought of 1914 by the very large quantities of manures they

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

THERE is good reason for believing that Haiti will shortly become a Protectorate of the United States. Legislation to that end is now being passed in the Republic.

MR. GEORGE CARRINGTON, the proprietor of Carrington's Estate in Barbados, is Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Bucks branch of the Red Cross Society. In that capacity he collected on "Our Day" over £3,500.

THE appeal for Venezuelan Alpagatas in last CIRCULAR has met with a prompt response. Mr. Climaco Vargas has sent to the West India Committee eight pairs, which are now on their way to Mr. E. Hutton's hospital in France.

MR. R. PARKINSON GOFFE, who has assisted us greatly in the compilation of the list appearing under the heading "The West Indies and the War," is at present working as a clerk in the Army Clothing Department of the Army Ordnance Corps at Olympia.

WITH the extermination of the tsetse fly in Principe, there is every prospect of sleeping sickness being stamped out in that Portuguese cacao-growing island. Fifty-nine individuals died of the disease there during 1914, but only eight persons suffering from sleeping sickness now remain on the island. The exports of cacao from St. Thomé and Principe in 1914 were 73,435,250 lbs., as compared with 73,836,656 lbs. and 73,952,876 lbs. in the two preceding years.

THE extent to which the Panama Canal will be used when it is in working trim may be gauged from the fact that on October 12th there were 33 vessels at the Atlantic entrance and 50 on the Pacific side held up through the slide in the Culebra or Gaillard Cut. In addition, 31 vessels had already left to go by longer routes. Though work on the removal of the slides is continuing with feverish haste, no date can yet be given for the reopening of the Canal to traffic. In August 161 vessels passed through the Canal, carrying 575,337 tons of cargo.

MAJOR J. R. BOOSE, V.D., Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, leaves for the West Indies at the end of this month in the interests of the organisation which he so ably represents. Visiting Jamaica first, he hopes to go down, or up, the islands, and to extend his tour to British Guiana also. Though Major Boosé is well known to a host of West Indians as successively Librarian and Secretary of the Institute, and though he helped the late Colonel Washington Eves in the compilation of "The West Indies," he has never visited the Caribbean. That he will re-

ceive a cordial welcome goes without saying, and that he will well deserve one is equally a truism.

AN Order in Council dated November 3rd prohibits the exportation of arrowroot to all foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal. In this connection it may be noted that in 1912 the exports of arrowroot from St. Vincent were distributed as follows:—United Kingdom, 3,150,403 lbs.; Canada, 44,133 lbs.; United States, 167,000 lbs.; France, 5,060 lbs.; Foreign West Indies, 24,606 lbs.; and the British West Indies, 556,879 lbs. Recently a demand for the commodity has arisen in certain neutral countries, which has led to the belief that an attempt is being made to get it to enemy countries, where the demand for starch products must be considerable.

OUR contemporary *Tropical Life*, commenting upon Mr. W. R. Dunlop's recent article on the lime and the lemon, makes some suggestions for popularising the former fruit. He urges its sale in poorer neighbourhoods, and advises West Indian planters to bulk their fruit and to employ travellers to push it over here. The absence of freight facilities and the heavy war rates are, however, an insuperable obstacle in the way of the adoption of any such steps at present, while in normal times the unwillingness of planters to damage their trees by gathering fruit in the winter (a difficulty which they should surely be able to overcome) militates against the efforts to replace the lemon by the lime. The public will not use limes in their kitchens instead of lemons if they can only get the West Indian fruit during certain months of the year. The demand for the lime in the United States is on another footing, being due to the hot weather which prevails there every summer. Here the summer market is never so certain owing to our variable climate.

### OBITUARY.

THE HON. ARTHUR W. HOLMES A COURT.

The Hon. Arthur Wyndham Holmes à Court died at Cedar Valley Estate, the residence of his son, Mr. Leonard à Court, Antigua, on November 2nd.

Mr. Holmes à Court, who was the sixth son of the second Lord Heytesbury, first went out to Antigua as Surveyor of Public Works in 1872, and resided there for the rest of his life. Possessed of a kindly personality he was a general favourite. Well versed in the lore and historic associations of the island which was for so long his home he was never so happy as when he was exploring its by-paths with visitors, whom he made always welcome. In 1903 he retired and went to live at the historic English Harbour, on whose romantic history he was a recognised authority. Mr. à Court leaves a widow and four sons and a daughter. Having been a captain in the Middlesex Artillery Company, and later in the local artillery corps, he was accorded a military funeral.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

A BRONZE figure of Captain Scott from the studio of his widow is the latest addition to London's statuary. The hero of the South Polar Expedition is shown in his Antarctic dress, and on the granite pedestal on which he stands are his moving words:

"Had we lived I should have had a tale to tell of the hardships, endurance and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman."

The statue stands just beyond the Junior United Service Club, facing the Athenæum, and overlooking the site of the King Edward Memorial. The site chosen for the statue of Nurse Cavell, which is to be sculptured by Sir George Frampton as a labour of love, is less happy. It is the "island" at the foot of the Charing Cross Road and St. Martin's Lane, where for a time a plaster cast of the statue of General Gordon now at Khartoum stood for a while.

LORD KESTEVEN, whose death on active service has been announced, was a kinsman of Mr. W. H. Trollope, the owner of the historical Lord's Castle in Barbados, who inherited the estate from his brother, Lieut.-Colonel Frank C. Trollope. He was the only son of the late Hon. Robert Trollope, and only succeeded his uncle in July. The deceased peer had royal blood in his veins, one of his ancestors having married a granddaughter of Elizabeth Plantagenet, a daughter of Edward IV. Sir Andrew Trollope, one of the commanders at the battle of Wakefield in 1460, and Anthony Trollope, the famous novelist, were members of the family.

WHILST writing of the Trollope family we are reminded of the keen interest which the late Colonel Trollope—one of the most lovable of men—took in aeronautics. He was indeed a pioneer of military ballooning, and had he lived we may be certain that he would, despite age, have been "somewhere" on active service. The development of aeronautics since the war began has been little short of phenomenal; but it is chiefly in regard to heavier-than-air machines that progress has been made. Aeroplanes are being turned out by the hundred, the latest type being the fighter biplanes of the kind presented to the Government by British Guiana, Jamaica, and the Trinidad Chambers of Commerce. To Dominica is due the honour of being the first colony to give an aeroplane to the country.

THE question of trade after the war is beginning to receive serious attention, and the possibility of our markets being swamped with German goods directly Peace is signed is not being lost sight of. The position with regard to sugar has been engaging the attention of the West India Committee for some months past, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Council of the Association of Chambers of Commerce has been discussing the dumping danger generally. They hold the view that the Government should be prepared with a scheme effectively to combat any threatened unfair competition. With regard to sugar, it is clear that the public will not

willingly consume German or Austrian beet sugar again, and the co-operation of the confectioners and refiners must be secured towards the development of a British sugar industry.

THE war trophies on the Horse Guards Parade, to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR, have been supplemented by a German "Taube" aeroplane, for which a canvas hangar has been specially erected, two formidable torpedoes, an enemy mine, a searchlight, and one of the guns of the *Emden*. There is no doubt that the exhibition of these spoils is giving a stimulus to recruiting, which is particularly brisk. Conscription is threatened if a sufficiency of volunteers does not come forward by November 30th, but recruits are coming forward so readily under the new scheme that it looks as though there will be comparatively few slackers to be conscribed. Under Lord Derby's scheme the eligible men are being grouped in classes according to age. All will wear khaki brassards, and will be called up class by class, the single men first, and then those married before August 15th.

THE death of Dr. Booker T. Washington, the famous black teacher, has been the subject of extended notices of a laudatory nature in the Press. Dr. Washington, who was born in slavery on a Southern plantation, rose to a position of great eminence. As the head of Tuskegee College in Virginia he devoted many years of his life to the education of his fellows, with such success that he received the thanks of President Roosevelt, who entertained him at the White House. From a tumble-down shanty, Dr. Washington raised Tuskegee to such an important position that it now has forty buildings and over 1,000 students.

THE Danish West Indian Company have nearly completed the work on their property at the upper portion of the harbour of St. Thomas in building coal and oil depots, warehouses, and a commodious wharf. The wharf is 2,145 feet long, with all modern fittings for the quick handling of coal, oil, etc. An electric light plant has been installed, also two electrically driven cranes for the quick handling of coal (valued at about £10,000 each), and two oil tanks each 170 feet in diameter and 30 feet high of about 2,250,000 gallons capacity have been installed.

During the year to date 117 new members have been elected to the West India Committee (Incorporated), residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	... 13	Bahamas	... 2
British Guiana	... 12	Nevis	... 2
Barbados	... 11	Anguilla	... 1
Jamaica	... 9	Cayman Islands	... 1
Grenada	... 6	Canada	... 1
St. Vincent	... 6	Nigeria	... 1
Tobago	... 6	Uganda	... 1
Montserrat	... 5	London	... 18
Antigua	... 4	Country	... 7
Dominica	... 3	Colombia	... 1
St. Kitts	... 3	Venezuela	... 1
British Honduras	... 3		



## SOME NATURE NOTES.

Two but little known diseases of the sweet potato—soil stain and pox—have lately been investigated by J. J. Tankenham. The first of these, which the investigator concludes has been wrongly attributed to *Monitochales infuscans*, is confined to the underground parts, and is carried with the seed. The potatoes are considerably reduced in value by this disease, which can be controlled by soaking the seed roots for ten minutes in a solution of corrosive sublimate. The second disease, which is of a fungoid nature, is favoured by an excess of lime in the soil, while an acid fertiliser with an acid phosphate reduces its virulence considerably.

\* \* \*

WRITING on the subject of lime cultivation in the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture of British Guiana, Professor Harrison says that mulching is of the greatest importance, and that it should be continuously carried on. The mulch should be applied in an encircling ring, and the distance of the outer part of the ring from the stem of the tree should be roughly the same as the distance of the outermost branches. It is essential that the mulch should never be piled up round the base of the trees, as this does much to encourage the development of what is known as "collar-rot" or "gummosis."

\* \* \*

PROFESSOR HARRISON has also a good deal to say on the subject of tillage. When limes are growing in heavy clay soil, forking at intervals should do much to encourage growth. It is, however, expensive, and land should not be suggested that requires it. Provided, he says, the plants are growing under suitable soil conditions, and have been given a fair chance in the early stage of growth, little or no cultivation is needed. Weeding four times per annum at the beginning of growth, and twice when the plants get older, should be sufficient. If tillage is required, a slight forking occasionally should be sufficient.

\* \* \*

In some soils, such as the lateritic and sandy soils of British Guiana, the Professor says that it may become desirable to manure the trees with artificial fertilisers. If this is done, it should be with the greatest caution, and active nitrogenous manure should be avoided as being calculated, while apparently favouring the growth of the tree, to reduce its flower and fruit bearing functions. If artificial manure seems necessary, a mixture of sulphate of potash with finely ground slag phosphate or basic superphosphate should be tried, and lightly forked into the soil near the margin of the cleared area round each tree. If nitrogen is required, 80 lbs. nitrate of soda or 100 lbs. of nitrate of lime should be scattered over the surface of the soil.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

## ANTIGUA—Weather too dry.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, OCTOBER 14th.—The weather is not very favourable, being too dry. Antigua's detachment of men for the West Indian Contingent left on the 8th inst. I regret to have to report the death of the Hon. Arthur Holmes à Court, who was a fine and courteous English gentleman. He was a prominent Freemason, and will be very much missed. On October 6th, Miss Dora Ledcatt, daughter of Major Ledcatt, was married to Mr. Arthur Mackie, the son of the late Dr. Mackie, who for many years practised in the islands.

## BARBADOS—Fine Weather for the Crops.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., OCTOBER 18th.—We shall be sending men over every month to reinforce our first draft, which left by the *Danube*. The weather conditions for the crops is fine.

## BRITISH GUIANA—A successful Aircraft day.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, OCTOBER 16th.—The weather continues to be much too dry. The drought which has now lasted for eight weeks has seriously affected cultivation. Some showers fell on the 13th inst., but they were not general. The *Harima* is temporarily taking the place of the R.M.S. *Balanita*, which has proceeded to England in the place of the *Ortega*. The S.S. *Dava* arrived on the 12th inst., with 630 East Indian immigrants for the colony, including 364 from Madras and 266 from Calcutta. The Governor and Lady Egerton, with Captain Parker, A.D.C., returned from Trinidad on October 24th. October 4th was observed as Aircraft day, when subscriptions for the British Guiana aeroplane were collected throughout the colony. Sufficient money has now been forwarded for the purchase of the aeroplane.

## GRENADA—Produce Shipments from 1911-1915.

We are indebted to Messrs. Jonas Brown and Sons for the following table of exports from Grenada and the Grenadines for the past five crop seasons.

Crops. Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.	Cocoa bags.	Spice packages.	Cotton bales.	Cot. oustred bags.
1914-1915	62,315	10,951	1,218	6,587
1913-1914	66,902	11,606	1,790	6,201
1912-1913	64,476	11,418	1,340	7,250
1911-1912	70,091	10,379	1,260	4,495
1910-1911	67,441	7,589	910	4,702

Of which the following were shipped:—

	To North America.	To Barbados
1914-1915	20,271	4,064
1913-1914	17,608	4,230
1912-1913	19,989	1,476
1911-1912	14,548	1,402
1910-1911	12,500	1,160

and the remainder to Europe.

## JAMAICA—The Supplementary Estimates.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., NOVEMBER 4th.—The weather during September was variable, stormy to fair and fine. The maximum temperature was 93° F., the minimum 71.6° F., and the mean 80.6° F. The total rainfall was 11.90 inches, or nearly three times the average, 6.45 inches having fallen on the 4th.

The railway line to Port Antonio is still out of commission beyond Buff Bay as the result of the storm of September 23rd, but reconstruction operations are being actively pushed. The cost of the work will exceed £27,000. The Government Railway earnings in August show a decrease of £5,890 as compared with the corresponding month last year.

The Special Session of the Legislative Council was opened on the 21st, and adjourned, *sine die*, on the 24th. The most important measures dealt with were legislation to meet the financial situation brought on by the hurricane in August, and the Jamaica War Contingent. The Supple-

mentary estimates brought down provide for railway repairs £28,623, roads £24,959, lighthouses, telegraph lines, schools, etc., £3,500. The estimated decrease in revenue is £63,218, chiefly railway receipts. The Government is opposed to new taxation at present and a loan from the mother country being inadvisable at present, the situation will be met by overdrafts at the island banks at the rate of 5 per cent. interest.

A contingent of men from the Bahamas has arrived here and will accompany the Jamaica contingent. Recruiting is now being vigorously carried on and hopes are expressed that the contingent will go forward in a few weeks.

Mr. F. B. Reed, Acting Director of Education, has been appointed provisionally a nominated member of the Legislative Council, during the absence on leave of the Hon. J. R. Williams, who is ill. The War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	7,088	11	4
Jamaica War Contingent Women's Fund	459	10	5
Jamaica War Contingent Flag Day Fund	1,551	3	1
Jamaica Aeroplane Fund	1,369	9	5

The other Funds remain unchanged, but are still active. Consignments of our war gifts, fruit, walking sticks, etc., are being sent forward at regular intervals for distribution to the hospitals, etc.

HON. D. S. GIDSON, PORT ANTONIO, OCTOBER 4th.—We are experiencing very hard times in consequence of the recent destruction of our bananas, but if there are no further disasters we should commence to make normal shipments between the months of March and April of next year.

**ST. KITTS—Promising Crop Prospects.**

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, OCTOBER 14th.—The St. Kitts detachment for the West Indian Contingent had a very fine send-off on September 30th. There was a liberal display of hunting and the town presented a gay and festive appearance. An impressive military service was held in St. George's Church, and was attended by His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell and many officials. The Archbishop delivered an excellent farewell address. At its conclusion the Defence Force, Police and Recruits marched through the town to the martial strains of a brass band accompanied by hundreds of the people of all classes. The men were afterwards entertained at the Drill Hall. Thousands lined the wharves and sea-front when the men were embarked at 4.30. On October 4th, Dr. Shannon and Mr. H. Waterland delivered interesting addresses on Stock Feeding. A patriotic concert was held at St. George's Schoolroom in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. To-day an entertainment is being given in aid of the British Red Cross Fund in old Government House. September gave little cause for complaint from the climatic point of view. Bstridge's and Sandy Point averaging 9 to 10 inches of rain, and Basseterre 5 to 6 inches. The crop prospects for 1916 continue to be very promising.

**TOBAGO—Sir G. le Hunte's "Spøedige Gerøgtighed"**

MR. G. DAVID HATT, OCTOBER 15th.—The Governor paid Tobago a farewell visit on October 6th, when several addresses expressing appreciation for the many improvements effected in the island during his tenure of office, were presented. The chief towns were all decorated with hunting and arches constructed of palm leaves. The Governor gave a luncheon at Roxburgh and a dinner in Scarborough, both on the *Barima*. The Scarborough address was enclosed in a basket made of native wood and beautifully finished. Among the many decorations figured the old Dutch motto "Spøedige Gerøgtighed" (Prompt justice). The local government is considering how fresh revenue can be raised. The exports from 1st January to 30th September are valued at £50,913 as against £42,629 for the corresponding period last year. It comprises amongst other items, cacao £23,430; coco-nuts, copra and coco-nut oil £9,426; fowls and eggs £1,426; horses and live stock £5,724; fruits and vegetables £8,772; tobacco £833; bay oil £16; sugar £300; turtle and turtleshell £323; and native lumber £87.

The weather is satisfactory, very warm owing to little wind and a rainfall of 2.97 inches recorded at the Botanic Station for the fortnight. Cacao picking is becoming general through the island, though in small quantities as yet; tobacco is coming into market daily, and seaside grapes admired by Charles Kingsley are ripening rather early this year. Mr. Robert S. Reid, of King's Bay, has returned from his holiday in the old country looking the picture of good health.

**TRINIDAD—The Merchants' Contingent**

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, OCTOBER 18th.—By the Royal Mail steamer to-day Sir George R. Le Hunte, Governor of the Colony since 1909, leaves us for good, and will be accorded a hearty send-off by the numberless friends who he has made here. During the past fortnight, His Excellency has been the recipient of addresses in all parts of the Colony, and from all classes, expressive of appreciation and of high respect and honour for him personally. It is perhaps too early, and certainly not within my province at the moment, to speak with regard to the general administration of the Colony of Sir George, but this I may say, that in my long experience no Governor has left us carrying with him the universal regard and affection to the same extent as does Sir George.

OCTOBER 19th.—Monday, 18th October, 1915, will ever be a red-letter day in Trinidad, for it was then that the Merchants' Contingent, the first private contingent that has left the West Indies, sailed to do battle for King and Country. Only 111 of them, with three officers, but hardly an old family in the Colony, or colonist of standing who was not interested more or less closely with one or more of the brave boys full of heart and hope and energy who go to do or die. There was never a scene like it in the island. From all parts of the country by rail, and boat, and motor, people poured into Port of Spain, and dense crowds assembled wherever the chance offered of seeing them pass. All places of business closed at 2 p.m. Flags flew throughout the town, and Frederick Street, through which the final march to the wharf took place was one mass of hunting, with pavements thronged, and every window filled with eager onlookers. The Contingent paraded opposite the City Council Hall at 2.15 p.m., and was there inspected by the Governor, who made his last and most inspiring speech in Trinidad. Then, headed by the Artillery Band, they passed through thousands cheering madly, to the Lighthouse Jetty, where one of the Gulf steamers received them and the subscribers to the Fund. Here the Constabulary Band discoursed patriotic music during embarkation, the Artillery Band going off in the steamer. The whole wharf was one dense mass of humanity shouting its hearty good-bye. The Custom House, the News Room, the St. Vincent Jetty, every point of vantage was crowded. Launches, steamers, lighters, boats, everywhere gay with hunting and filled with frantic well-wishers of "The Boys." The like, as I have said, was never seen here before, and probably never will be again. It was something to stir the heart of the most stolid. And it continued until the last farewells were said on board the *Danube*, where many mothers said good-bye bravely in some cases to only sons, and the youngsters bore up like the men they are. Thus our young Contingent went where glory waits.—May God be with them!

**TURKS ISLANDS—The Sponge Industry Active.**

GRAND TURK, THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CARLE CO., NOVEMBER.—The weather has been very oppressive. The wind maximum temperature in September was 93°F., and the minimum 71.5°F. The total rainfall registered by the United States Weather Bureau was 4.71 inches. Salt raking for this season will, owing to the recent rains, have to be abandoned.

Business has been exceptionally quiet, and in the absence of vessels calling for cargoes of salt there was nothing offering employment to the labouring class. Had it not been for the extra number of labourers taken by the Clyde Steamers, it would have been a hard month for a great number.

Mr. W. S. Jones, the agent of the Clyde Steamship Company, reports that his line intends to put four tramp

steamers on the New York-San Domingo route during the coming sugar season, in addition to their two regular boats. The tramp boats do not, however, bring a mail and are very uncertain. They sometimes go from San Domingo direct, not calling here on their north-bound trip, the labourers taken from here being transferred to one of their other boats.

The Medical Officer hoped to inaugurate his new sanitary scheme on the 1st of October, but owing to the gloomy prospects ahead he has not been able to do so.

The Commissioner has had a piece of land cleared on the eastern side of the island, and is planting it for demonstration purposes with cotton and pineapples. If the soil and climate proves suitable for the latter, he hopes to induce some of the small farmers in the Caicos Group to take up the cultivation. Many have already planted cotton.

The Caicos Development Company have made shipments of canned lobster and conch shells during the month to the United States. The sponge industry is now busy again and shipments will be made at an early date. The areas under cultivation are progressing favourably and more is being planted.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### Lump Sugar in 1763 and Now.

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In connection with the rise in price of Lump Sugar to 6d. per lb., which followed the Budget, the accompanying invoice of this firm dated July 13th, 1763—over 152 years ago—may be of interest to your readers. You will note that the retail price of lump was then 7d. per lb. as compared with the present price of 5d. per lb. With regard to the other products mentioned, ginger, then 1/- per lb., is still at that price. Nutmegs, which in 1763 fetched the almost fabulous price of 9/4 per lb., are now retailed at 2/- per lb.; mace, then 20/- per lb., is now 3/- per lb.; while black pepper has fallen from 1/8 per lb. to 1/- per lb.

Yours obediently,  
DAVISON, NEWMAN & Co.  
Estab. : A.D. 1650.

14, Creechurch Lane.

Item	Price	Total
Ginger	1/4	3
Nutmegs	10/-	7
Mace	1/-	1. 3
Black Pepper	12	10
Lump	6	3. 6
Received then the pounds for		£ 6. 5

W. Johnson

An Invoice of 1763.

## OUR LIBRARY.

Concerning Sugar. By Truman G. Palmer. We have received from the energetic Secretary of the United States Sugar Manufacturers' Association, the first instalment of his Loose Leaf Service in connection with sugar. The "Loose Leaves" are inserted in an elegant binder of apparently inexhaustible capacity, and the idea is that the information therein conveyed shall be supplemented from time to time by further notes, which will be so indexed as to admit of ready insertion in the binder. Mr. Palmer's "Sugar at Glance" is so well-known in the sugar world that it is unnecessary to state how excellent the matter that he provides is, and how well displayed in his Loose Leaves. To the sugar statistician these notes concerning sugar will be invaluable.

## A Suggestion from the Philippines.

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—In the CIRCULAR of date June 1st last is given an extract of the figures for the Java Experiment Station of the mean extraction of 167 factories, from a statement issued by Dr. Goerlign. Is it possible to get full copies of these figures in an English translation? I should very much like to have them, and shall be very much indebted to you for any information as to how they are procurable.

Being deeply interested in all that concerns the improvements and increase in the recovery of sucrose from the cane, these figures are most useful for comparative purposes. Might I suggest that as there must be many others as interested, you publish if possible the figures for the headings given on the enclosed form, starting with a table giving the figures for each of the past five years say, and

then publishing the figures for the same headings each year as they become available. I think they would prove a most useful addition to the many interesting items in the CIRCULAR.

In these islands the Government is taking steps to aid in establishing modern central factories, of from 500 to 1,000 tons of cane per 24 hours' capacity, in the various sugar districts. A sum of 3,000,000 pesos (about £300,000) was originally voted with this object and is to be increased. Various schemes are under consideration at the present time by a Commission, but as yet nothing has been definitely decided as it is of course first necessary to investigate thoroughly the merits of the different schemes put forward. Our home manufacturers should be able to secure some of the machinery contracts in spite of the heavy duty against them in favour of American manufacturers, terms of payment will probably be one of the deciding points. If these schemes turn out successfully, and under the present conditions they certainly have little chance of failure, these islands should in the near future be able to export quite a fair tonnage of 96 test sugars, as the possibilities of expansion in the sugar industry are very great.

We have just had a most prolonged drought, and crops in the northern provinces especially have suffered terribly. There had been absolutely no rainfall for just on six months, and much of the cane, which is replanted each year, had actually died out, what was left being very short and dried up. Usually planting starts only when harvesting has begun, and the young cane has therefore to face the dry season to start with. On this estate I have introduced early planting as soon as possible at the end of the wet season, and the first plantings under this system proved quite successful in spite of the unusual drought.

During the past season we turned out 1,460 tons refining crystals, although the cane crop was a short one. After the milling we refined a large quantity of local muscovado, polarising from 69 up to 85, bringing it up to 96 test sugar. This local sugar is not a grained sugar being just\* solidified juice, the lower qualities containing large quantities of caramels and other compounds due to the high temperature in the open taches used, and thus differs very considerably from ordinary muscovado sugars. Although only the second crop taken off everything went like clockwork almost, it is hard to believe that the people were eighteen months before quite new to the work—thy take to it very quickly and are, I find, very easy to get on with.

Though so far removed from the European conflict its effects are being most decidedly felt even here. I believe there is quite a depression in business generally, though of course the sugar industry is being very much benefited by the rise in prices. The review of the war in the CIRCULAR is an excellent and very interesting item, giving as it does a clear and comprehensive idea of what is happening. The collections amongst the British residents for the Prince of Wales' Fund had reached £2,630 odd by the end of June. There has also been formed a local branch of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, which has a considerable membership, and has helped to put its plank or rivet in the Overseas warship. The news of the Coalition Cabinet was most reassuring, everyone I think looks forward to an early and satisfactory termination of the war with its terribly long lists of casualties, though at the present the end seems still far off.

Thanking you in anticipation for any trouble you may be put to with regard to the figures mentioned.

Yours truly,

Central Carmen, Calatagan. A. R. G. HUNTER.  
5th August, 1915.

#### STATISTIC HEADINGS.

Sucrose in Cane.  
Sucrose extracted by Mill per cent. Sucrose in Cane.  
Maceration per cent. normal juice.  
Sucrose in Bagasse.  
Sucrose in Bagasse.  
Sucrose in Bagasse per cent. Cane.

Sucrose in Juice (mixed juice).  
Purity of Juice (apparent).

Sugars made :—

White sugar per cent. cane.  
Refining sugar per cent. cane.  
Seconds sugar per cent. cane.  
Molasses sugar per cent. cane.  
Blackstrop per cent. cane.

Polarizations of sugars :—

White.  
Refining.  
Seconds.  
Molasses sugar  
Blackstrop (per cent. Sucrose).

Final Molasses per cent Cane (by weight).  
Sucrose (true) in final molasses.  
Purity (true) of final molasses.

Filter press mud per cent. Cane (by weight).  
Sucrose in filter press mud.

#### A Suggestion from Berbice.

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.  
Dear Sir,—I beg to advocate an amendment to the Immigration Ordinance of British Guiana whereby the minimum daily wages payable to the East Indians shall be 2/- instead of 1/- per caput.

Thanking you for insertion,

I am, dear Sir, yours obediently,  
ABRAHAM VANIER,  
Solicitor

New Amsterdam, Berbice.  
30th Sept., 1915.

## WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

### The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

The Directors submitting the accounts for the six months ended 30th of June, 1915, and balance sheet, state that the amount to credit of revenue is £36,454 3s. 9d., against £41,482 9s. 8d. for the corresponding half-year of 1914, and the expenses £27,225 0s. 8d., against £26,900 4s. 10d. The result is, therefore, a profit of £9,229 3s. 1d., to which is added £1,741 8s. 5d. interest on investments, and £6,348 16s. 4d. brought forward from last account, making an available total of £17,319 7s. 10d. They propose a payment of the following dividends for the six months to June 30: 6s. per share on the first preference shares (£10,368 18s.); 6s. per share on the second preference shares (£1,400 14s.); and 9d. per share on the ordinary shares, free of income tax (£3,312 0s. 9d.); leaving a balance of £2,237 15s. 1d. to the current half-year's account.

The working profit for the half-year was £9,229 3s. 1d., as compared with £14,582 4s. 10d., a decrease of £5,353 1s. 9d. The War conditions referred to in the last report involved an abnormal expenditure of over £7,000 during the half-year. The cost of repairs to cables was £3,263 less, partly owing to receipts for the hire of the *Henry Holmes*, and to a smaller quantity of cable having been used in repairs. The traffic receipts during the current half-year, to which are added the special subsidies granted in respect of a reduction of rates, so far show a considerable falling off in comparison with those of the corresponding half-year of 1914. In August last a hurricane passed over the West Indies, affecting an unusually large area and resulting in damage to several of the land lines and cables, causing a great dislocation of traffic for about twelve days. The cost of repairs to cables during the current half-year will, in consequence, probably exceed the average.

Presiding at the 77th Ordinary General Meeting on November 10th, Sir Alexander Freeman King, K.C.B.,

\* Concentrated until it solidifies in cooling.

presiding in the absence through ill-health of Mr. W. B. Kingsford, said that additional expenditure, due to the requirements of the Government as a result of the war, together with the increased cost of a more than usually lengthened bulletin of news, was reflected in the accounts. Supplying the colonies daily with a free bulletin of news had been found by the company at all times to be a burdensome and costly obligation. Nevertheless, they had thought it right to give during the war a much more extensive bulletin, notwithstanding the cost. The additional expenditure under those two items amounted to more than £7,000. It would be observed, however, that as a partial set-off to this extra cost of working, the expenses attending maintenance of cables were fortunately much below the average. Nearly the whole of the increase in the expenses at their stations was due to the Government requirements to which he had alluded. When the special services they were now rendering to the Government were no longer necessary it was the directors' intention to apply to the authorities for such refund in respect of the overtime as they might deem reasonable. The increase in the cost of the renewal of instruments was exceptional, and not necessarily of a recurring nature. The directors suggested that, with the shareholders' sanction, the Company should subscribe 50 guineas to the fund which was being raised under the auspices of the Colonial Secretary for the comfort and welfare of those men who had come from the West Indies to the mother country in order to join the new armies. The British West Indies Regiment would number about 2,000 men.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the staff at home and abroad terminated the proceedings.

#### The Demerara Railway Company.

The report of the directors for the half-year ended June 30th, 1915, exhibits the following results: Gross Revenue £25,598 12s. 4d. (against £23,448 16s. 1d. for the same period in 1914), Gross Expenditure £21,002 11s. 7d. (£18,103 13s. 2d.), less Debenture Interest £1,400 (£1,400), making net revenue £3,144 10s. 5d. (£3,945 2s. 11d.). After adding the Government subsidy £6,250 (£6,250), withdrawal for the Renewal fund £1,732 3s. 5d. (£789 15s.), and the carry forward for the previous half-year £1,203 5s. 1d. (£1,536 5s.), there remains an available balance of £12,329 13s. 11d. (£12,521 2s. 11d.). Out of this sum there falls to be paid the Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4% per annum on 4% Extension Preference Stock £6,250 (£6,250), and the Directors recommended that the remainder should be dealt with as follows: (a) Dividend for half-year at the rate of 7% per annum on 7% Preference Stock £4,025 (£4,025), (b) Dividend for half-year at the rate of 3½% per annum on Preferred Ordinary Stock £563 10s. (£563 10s.), leaving to be carried forward £1,491 8s. 11d. (£1,682 12s. 11d.). The receipts on capital account have been £694,700 and the Expenditure £694,622 3s. 1d., leaving a credit balance of £77 16s. 11d.

The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

	1915.	1914.
Demerara Railway	206,215	205,214
Berbice Railway	32,947	28,491
West Coast Railway	129,144	94,014
	368,306	327,719

The tonnage of goods was:—

	1915.	1914.
Demerara Railway	22,264	19,990
Berbice Railway	3,986	3,709
West Coast Railway	2,086	1,642
	28,336	25,336

The extension of the West Coast Railway to Parika and the working arrangements with the Government Steamers have led to a large increase of traffic on this section, but notwithstanding this there is an adverse balance on the

Revenue Account of that Line owing to the provision of a new locomotive boiler. The Parika Construction Account is still waiting final settlement with the Government.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Parikra Nov. 15
4%	Antigua ... 4% Redeemable 1919-44	95
3½%	Barbados ... 3½% Redeemable 1925-42	86½
4%	British Guiana ... 4% Redeemable 1935	94
4%	British Guiana ... 4% Redeemable 1937-45	74½
4%	Grenada ... 4% Redeemable 1917-42	94½
4%	Jamaica ... 4% Redeemable 1934	97½
3½%	Jamaica ... 3½% Redeemable 1919-49	83½
4%	Jamaica ... 4% Redeemable 1932-44	75
4%	St. Lucia ... 4% Redeemable 1919-44	95
4%	Trinidad ... 4% Redeemable 1917-42	94
3%	Trinidad ... 3% Redeemable 1922-44	74
6%	The Colonial Bank	98 9
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	91½
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	85½
4½%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½% Debentures	88½
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	87½
4½%	Imperial Direct Line 4½% Debentures	100
6%	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	11/-
	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	97½
	Consolidated Robber and Balata Estates Pref.	67½
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	3/5
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	5
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-30
7%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	100-105
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	70-75
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	72-75
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd Ordinary	23/3
6/	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref	49½
6/	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2" and	44½
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	91½

#### STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland, Canada and the United States for the next few weeks.

##### FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Nov. 29	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Avonmouth	...
Dec. 1	Direct Line	Spheroid	London	K. L. M. N.
1	Leyland	Oranian	Liverpool	D.
3	"	Asian	"	D.
9	"	Albanian	"	A. E.
13	Elders & Fyffes	Capina	Avonmouth	D.
15	Bocker Line	Imatsha	Liverpool	B.

##### FROM HOLLAND.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 3	Royal Dutch	"	Amsterdam	B. E.
17	"	"	"	"
31	"	"	"	"

##### FROM CANADA.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Nov. 19	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chiguecto	Halifax, N.S.	K. L. M. N.
Dec. 3	"	Chaudiere	"	"
17	"	Caracquet	"	"

##### FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 7	Trinidad Line	Mayaro	New York	L. E. B.
21	"	Maraval	"	"

A, Barbados; B, British Guiana; C, British Honduras; D, Jamaica; E, Trinidad; F, Antigua; G, St. Kitts; H, Nevis; I, Montserrat; K, Dominica; L, Grenada; M, St. Lucia; N, St. Vincent.

The Folders of the principal shipping companies whose steamers call at West Indian ports can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

- |                     |                    |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. B. Banyon       | Mr. W. M. Fletcher | Mr. A. E. Perkins      |
| Mr. A. Cameron      | Mr. P. L. Guppy    | Mr. W. G. Robertson    |
| Mr. A. Campbell     | Mr. A. T. Hammond  | Mr. G. Elliott Sealy   |
| Dr. C. F. Castor    | Mrs. E. Haynes     | Mr. F. B. B. Shand     |
| Mr. J. W. Cathcart  | Mr. A. L. McColl   | Mr. R. B. Short        |
| Mr. Arthur E. Clodi | Mr. A. E. Morrish  | and                    |
| Hon. H. Ferguson    | Mr. T. W. O'Neil   | Mr. F. H. S. Warneford |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 Mr. T. L. Dunsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Rood Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. J. Freehand Foots, Thornton House, Wisborne Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Ardath, Esher, Surrey.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, J. Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sinton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
 Mr. S. H. Taylor, Regent Palace Hotel, Regent Street, W.  
 Mr. J. B. Waith, Baybrook, West Hill Road, Bournemouth

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.**

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. from the 8th of August, 1914. Old War Loan is quoted at 90½, new War Loan at 96½. Consols stand at 65.

**SUGAR**—As regards the United Kingdom there has been nothing special to note since last Summary, except the decision of the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies not to lay down hard and fast lines as to retail prices. While fixing 5d. per lb. for cubes, 4d. per lb. for good granulated, 3½d. per lb. for White Java, and 4½d. per lb. for castor and special British granulated, the Commission announce that these prices should not be regarded as "of rigid application under all circumstances, but as standards to guide the purchaser." The practical effect of this will probably be to raise the retail price of sugar all round to the consumer. Indirectly in this way this announcement of the Commission is calculated to benefit the makers of West Indian grocery crystallised, and it is to be regretted that more of this high-class sugar is not in the market. Makers should bear in mind that gilt-edged qualities, while desirable, are no longer a *sine qua non* for satisfactory sales, and that a sugar of a colour not appreciated by the trade in peace times, now finds ready sale.

According to the Board of Trade Returns the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom in October amounted to 148,730 tons. This quantity included 1,736 tons from Holland, 26,551 tons white crystals and 41,516 tons of refining crystals from Java, 34,432 tons of refined sugar from the United States, together with 1,695 tons of white sugar from the Argentine. Cuba contributed 32,382 tons, Peru 1,963 tons, and Brazil 1,142 tons; 6,319 tons came from British Guiana and the British West Indies.

During the ten months, the principal imports were: from Java 363,517 tons, from Cuba 320,282 tons, from the United States 98,972 tons, and from Mauritius 156,256 tons. The British West Indies, including British Guiana, supplied 106,004 tons.

The consumption of sugar, based on imports, for the month of October was 130,530 tons. The imports of sugar for the ten months of the current year were 1,251,503 tons as against 1,558,235 tons for the corresponding period in 1913, a diminution of 306,732 tons or nearly 20 per cent. less on pre-war figures. The stocks in hand on the 31st October were 183,500 tons, or about 20,000 tons greater than on the 30th of September.

The Australian Sugar Acquisition Act has now become law, and under powers conferred by it, the Queensland Government has issued a proclamation, in which the prices to be paid for the raw sugar is "at the rate of £18 per ton 94 per cent. titre, upon the Treasurer being satisfied that the said raw sugar has been produced and manufactured by labour and under conditions approved by him; or at such rate per ton not being less than at the rate of £13 per ton 94 per cent. titre, as the Treasurer may fix in cases where the Treasurer is not satisfied as aforesaid." These prices completely deprive the planters of "war profits," while the cost of production in many respects must be increased as the result of the war.

The agreement is that the Queensland Government acquires the whole Queensland crop under the above terms, and it over to the Commonwealth Government who will have it refined and sold to the people at the lowest possible expense.

The prospects of the coming Cuban crop are good. Up to 6th inst. 2,543,294 tons of the old crop had been delivered at Cuban ports, and it may be expected that the crop will close at about 2,575,000 tons as against 2,596,567 tons last year.

The Mauritius crop is likely to be much shorter than was expected. The canes in some parts of the island are hardly worth cutting, and it is doubtful whether 200,000 tons will be reached. Good accounts are being given of the United States beet crop now being reaped, but the Louisiana crop now in progress will be a short one, and will probably not reach more than 150,000 tons.

In the London market on the 5th inst. the demand for

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Sept. 23.		Jan. 1 to Sept. 18.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar	39,054	51,740 Tons.	13,586	13,610 Tons.
Molasses		83,197 Galls.		
Rum	2,925,559	1,895,447 Pp. Gls.	1,089,883	989,246 Galls.
Molasebit, &c.	1,354	1,119 Tons.		
Cacao	38,174	41,937 lbs.	7,031,136	6,841,968 lbs.
Coffee	172,185	238,767 "	5,152,560	5,790,736 "
Coco-nuts	1,409,200	1,463,371 No.	19,415,354	20,986,140 No.
Oranges			5,085,750	3,017,150 "
Bananas			7,674,258	13,963,542 Stems
Cotton			33,249	32,707 lbs.
Pimento			43,290	64,038 Cwts.
Ginger			10,153	16,799 "
Honey			112,593	141,248 Galls.
Dyewoods			33,124	46,079 Tons.
Gold	41,134	46,291 Ozs.		
Diamonds	2,355	9,517 Carats.		
Rice	15,556,443	0,317,310 lbs.		
Balata	1,139,134	612,444 "		
Rubber	2,899	787 "		
Timber	100,311	173,130 cub. ft.		
Lumber	127,659	241,229 ft.		
Lime (citrate of)	11,118	3,144 lbs.		

Trinidad.		Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to Oct. 4.		Jan. 1 to Aug. 31.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar	45,387	45,199 Tons.	31,137	31,708 Tons.
Molasses	4,544	3,276 Puns.	51,355	99,974 Puns.
Rum	5,314	881 "		
Coco-nuts	8,199,190	11,383,825 No.		
Asphalt	83,374	117,142 Tons.		
Manjak	496	221 "		
Bitters	12,549	13,307 Cases.		
Coffee	10,860	13,440 lbs.		
Crude Petrol				
Cacao	43,163,800	60,691,000 lbs.		
Cotton				
Seed				
Copra	17,449	6,322 Hags.		
Silice				
Kola				

Urenada.		
Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.		
1914/15	1913/14	
	11,389,880	11,012,490 lbs.
	1,182	1,172 Bales
	1,023	3,558 Bags.
	329	277 "
	1,410,300	1,372,940 lbs.
	6,310	5,320 "

Dominica.		
Jan. 1 to Aug. 31.		
1915.	1914.	
Cacao	555,184	516,768 lbs.
Limes	35,272	39,411 barrels.
Lime Juice raw	342,941	160,647 galls.
concentrated	20,143	40,575 "
Citrate of	340	2,762 cwt.
Lime Oil distilled	944	1,936 galls.
equalled	235	663 "
Hardwood	25,231	69,911 feet.
Bananas	2,039	2,302 stems.
Coco-nuts	298,656	391,484 No.

Mr. T. W. THATCHER, in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, gives an account of some interesting experiments on the subject of the preservation of ripe apples. An atmosphere of various gases was tried, and the only one which preserved the apples satisfactorily was one of carbonic acid gas. Shut up in an atmosphere of this gas, apples remained firm in flesh and with the characteristic apple taste and smell for six months, although similar apples in air were visibly over-ripe after four weeks.

grocery crystallised continued, rates advancing 3d. to 6d. 1,256 bags of Trinidad were mostly sold at 29s. 6d., 656 bags of Demerara were all sold at 30s. to 30s. 6d., and 520 bags of Antigua at 29s. 9d. to 30s. No auctions were held on the 9th on account of scarcity of supplies, but on the 12th 370 tons were sold at a further advance of 3d. to 6d. per cwt. Muscovado also participated in the advance. 1,794 bags of Trinidad were part sold at 29s. 6d. to 30s., 617 bags of Demerara sold at 30s. 6d. to 31s., 645 bags of Antigua at 30s. 6d. to 30s. 9d., and 359 bags of Jamaica at 29s. to 29s. 3d. A fair proportion of 1,040 bags Barbados muscovado were sold at 27s. The Jamaica muscovado was bought in.

The West India sugar statistics from January 1st to date are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	48,252	28,095	35,420	24,450	33,245
Deliveries ...	42,141	33,799	25,658	27,000	32,664
Stock (Nov. 6)	12,120	7,248	11,602	1,940	4,961

There has been considerable liveliness on the New York market during the fortnight. In the 3rd, 96° sugars were quoted at \$4.39, and granulated at \$5.25; but the price rapidly rose, being \$4.58 on the 5th for 96°s and \$5.40 for granulated, \$4.89 and \$5.75 on the 10th, and \$5.14 and \$5.90 yesterday. On the 8th sales of Cuban sugars for Europe were reported at \$3.25 f.o.b. for November shipment, \$3.15 for December delivery, and \$3.05 for January delivery, equivalent to about \$4.56, \$4, \$4.46, and \$4.36 for landed, duty paid New York. On the 10th the sale to France of 20,000 tons granulated at \$4.70 f.o.b. was mentioned.

The main causes which have led to the rise have been the demand for refined for Europe, the low stocks in the hands of the refiners and the freight difficulty, which is highly accentuated at the present moment.

As regards the new Cuban crop, in addition to the sales mentioned above, Messrs. Willett and Gray report sales for January/March delivery for New York at \$3.00 c.i.f., equal to \$4.01 duty paid and landed.

At auction to-day a good demand prevailed for grocery crystallised, 149 tons being practically sold at full rates. Demerara fetched 30s. 7½d.; Jamaica, 29s. 6d. to 31s. 3d.; Trinidad, 31s.; and Antigua, 30s. 6d. to 30s. 9d. Muscovado was steady, although quiet, Jamaica selling at 27s. St. Kitts syrups sold at 27s.

**RUM**—The market continues very firm, with some advance on previous rates for good marks. Prices may be taken as 4s. 4d. to 5s. 3d. for common to fine qualities. Demerara continues in demand, but there is much delay at docks. Value 3s. 3d. to 3s. 4d. per proof gallon.

The stocks in London on November 6th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	5,774	7,989	6,948	8,415	9,948
Demerara ...	5,357	6,598	6,366	5,633	3,788
Total, all kinds	22,528	21,078	20,955	22,414	22,114

**CACAO**—There have been no auction sales since last Summary until to-day, when 5,260 bags of all kinds were offered. The market was firm, but the bidding hardly brisk. There was, however, a general advance on previous auction prices. Some of the Trinidad sold at 9s.; 2 bags of Grenada fetched 87s. 6d. per cwt. A part of 566 bags Jamaica was sold at 85s. 6d. to 93s.

The Board of Trade figures show that the imports of cacao into the United Kingdom for the month of October amounted to 10,121,492 lbs., as against 3,545,724 lbs. in October, 1913, and 3,912,683 lbs. in October, 1914. The total for the ten months of the year was 170,813,446 lbs. as against 65,200,826 lbs. and 74,908,970 lbs. for the corresponding period in 1913 and 1914 respectively. The exports in October were 4,265,585 lbs. as against 1,524,695 lbs. in 1913, and 3,842,367 lbs. in 1914. The exports for the ten months of 1915 were 49,001,069 lbs. as against 13,123,560 lbs. and 14,48,116 lbs. for the corresponding period in 1913 and 1914.

The stocks in London on November 6th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	11,141	8,153	11,752	7,005	6,713
Grenada ...	1,672	4,784	2,813	713	6,811
Total, all kinds	117,223	76,330	75,181	92,793	94,390

**COTTON**—Since our last report a good business has been done in West Indian Sea Island, the sales amounting to about 700 bales, which include St. Vincent at 16d. and 20d., with a few bales of superfine at 22d. and 28d.; other islands 14d. to 15d., and stains at 8d. to 10d. Up to the 14th inst. 4,699 bales of British West Indian had been imported into the United Kingdom.

**ARROWROOT**—A sudden call for arrowroot from Sweden, to which country the normal export of this commodity was about 3½ barrels annually, has led to the prohibition of its export to neutral European countries. The market has been very dull and the business done has been quite on a retail scale. Values are 2½d. to 4½d.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs unchanged, 100's/80's 4½d. to 8d.; 120's/100's, 4½d. to 4¾d.; 140's/120's, 4½d. to 4¾d. Mace good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 4d.; red to good, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; broken 6d. to 11d. Pimento has been firmer, and sales have been effected at 2½d. for fine quality. Ginger, Jamaica has been rather firmer since last mail, and prices, especially for bold, bright quality, are dearer. Values are 58s. to 70s. for common to middling, 72s. to 80s. for good to choice bright.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil is selling slowly at 7s. 6d.; handpressed is not enquired for but its value may be taken at 8s. Lime Juice—The demand for raw has subsided and good qualities cannot now be quoted over 2s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated is lower and buyers are now only offering £25.

**RUBBER**—There has been a considerable advance during the fortnight, both in Plantation and Para, but prices have declined from the highest figure for the former. Fine Plantation may now be quoted at 2s. 9d., with smoked sheet at 2s. 9d. Fine hard Para is firm at 2s. 8½d., with soft at 2s. 6½d. Castilloa sheet is quoted at 2s. 4d., and scrap at 1s. 9d.

**BALATA**—Market steady for Panama block, with buyers at 1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d. Venezuela block slow of sale, with spot values, sellers' price 1s. 10½d. to 1s. 11d. West Indian sheet, buyers at 2s. 4½d. spot, landed terms.

**HONEY**—Steady. At auction 433 packages of Jamaica were offered and about half sold, with further sales subsequently on private terms. Palish to pale set realised 35s. 6d. to 39s.; dark to pale liquid amber, 29s. to 36s. per cwt.

**COPRA**—Market has been firm. Business to a small extent has taken place in West Indian at £28 10s. Buyers' price is now £29 to £29 10s.

**COFFEE**—No change in this market. Demand has been slow; values for good ordinary may be taken as being 51s. to 52s. per cwt.

**COCO-NUT OIL**—The market has been firm, and a fair business has been done at £44 15s. per ton for Ceylon, and £46 for Cochin, December delivery.

**WOODS**—Fustic £6 to £7; Honduras Logwood £8 to £9. Cedar, Honduras, 4½d. to 7d.; Lignum Vitæ, £4 to £15; Satiawood, Porto Rico, 9d. to 2s.

**TIMBER**—British Guiana Greenheart £11 to £13 per load of 50 cubic feet.

**MANURES**—Sulphate of Ammonia is firm at £15. There is no agricultural demand for Nitrate of Soda, which is quoted at £14 15s. There is good enquiry for Superphosphate, valued at £5 per ton. Concentrated Superphosphate is quoted at £14 10s. to £15. Basic Slag, £3 10s. but supplies unobtainable.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—Unchanged. American, 9½d.; Water White, 10½d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

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Telegrams: CANIB, LONDON.

November 29th, 1915.

### MAURITIUS AND THE SUGAR COMMISSION.

WE have just received from the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture a copy of a memorial which has been forwarded by that body to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the recent purchase of Mauritius sugar by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. The memorial sets out the whole of the circumstances. It appears from the statements of the Governor of Mauritius, MAJOR SIR J. R. CHANCELLOR, K.C.M.G., made to a deputation of planters which waited upon him, that the Sugar Commission had originally no intention of buying this crop's Mauritius sugar, and that it was only induced to do so by his representations. The Commission having decided to purchase the sugar, the export of it was, as a preliminary measure, prohibited by the Governor, acting upon instructions from the Colonial Office. The market having been thus freed from competition, the next step taken by the Commission was to state the price.\* This was considerably below that which at that time could be obtained from India and France, and the planters naturally objected very strongly, and requested MR. JOHN W. HOLLWAY, the London representative of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce, to represent their case to the Colonial Office. This gentleman

\*17/4 for first quality (vesou); 17/- for second quality, and 16/10 for third quality, per cwt.

did so, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies referred the question of price to MR. STOCKDALE, the Director of Agriculture of Mauritius, who expressed his opinion that the Royal Commission's price was a fair one. It is no disparagement, as the memorial points out, to the scientific attainments and qualifications of the Director of Agriculture in his legitimate sphere of action to say that he was in no way suited to act as an arbiter on a matter which involved a sound knowledge of the world's sugar trade; and the Chamber of Commerce strongly object in the memorial to the course taken by the Colonial Office on such an important matter. Having been quite unable to obtain any support from the Colonial Office, and the export of the sugar having been forbidden, the Mauritius planters could only agree to accept the prices laid down by the Royal Commission. In this connection it is of interest to note that on the 6th or 7th of October, when the price of sugar in the world's market had fallen to a comparatively low figure, the Royal Commission magnanimously offered by cable to declare the deal off. The manner in which the Royal Commission arrived at its price for Mauritius sugar is set forth in one of the appendices to the memorial. The value, c.i.f. England, of American granulated being so much, and the intrinsic value of Mauritius sugar being 3s. 6d. less than that of the former, the value of the latter, c.i.f., would be so much, and after allowing for freight and charges, the price of 17s. 4d. f.o.b. Mauritius for first quality was arrived at. Putting aside the question of the intrinsic value of the two sugars, this mode of calculation, although giving the value of the sugar to the Royal Commission, does not express the value to the Mauritian planters. The value to them is the price they can get for their sugar, not what the Royal Commission can afford to give, and they have had to yield to *force majeure* and sell their sugar at a lower price than they could have contracted to sell it elsewhere. This matter of the Government Mauritius sugar purchase is in itself a strong indictment of the policy which has been and is being pursued by Great Britain towards its sugar colonies. After years of callous neglect, only broken by a Convention which, while it abolished bounties, left Great Britain with a gratuitous promise to our enemies not to give colonial sugar what should be its birthright, it now applies actual force to compel the sale of colonial sugar below its market value. The British sugar colonies have shown their patriotism and devotion to the Mother Country in many ways since the outbreak of the war, and it is a proof of the deep patriotic feeling of the colonial sugar planters that they have put on one side their just grievances, and have supported the Im-



perial cause as they have done in the present struggle. So far there has been no indication of a change in Great Britain's sugar policy, unless the protection given to home-grown beet points in that direction. But it is to be hoped that out of all this will come better treatment of our dependent colonies by Great Britain. The planters do not ask much; they merely require that the Customs tariff of the United Kingdom as regards sugar should be so arranged as to give them an opportunity of competing on level terms with the protected sugar of our present enemies. If this were given, there would be no question of dependence upon sugar from foreign sources, for this country would in time build up its own sugar supply from its colonial possessions. It is indeed true that events have proved that the alarm of a sugar famine was not justified, and the consumers of the United Kingdom have been well supplied with sugar during the war. That this is the case is not, however, due to the Royal Commission, but in great measure to the policy of the United States. That country has, by systematic protection of its own sugar industries, and by the preference given to Cuban sugar, built up the cane sugar industry to such an extent that Cuban sugar is now available in large quantities for the world's general wants. But how long is this country going to depend upon foreign countries for one of the most important of its food products? Great Britain betrayed her sugar colonies by the pledge to the enemy not to give them preferential treatment, and has now forced Mauritius to give to her the preferential treatment she denies her colonies. Is this the way to develop her colonies? Is this the way to safeguard the sugar supply of the United Kingdom?

In connection with this subject of Great Britain's sugar supplies, decidedly unpleasant rumours are being circulated in Mincing Lane. It is said that certain refining firms have announced their intention of reverting to the use of German raw sugar after the war, and that the terms of a Hamburg f.o.b. contract have actually been circulated and discussed by prominent sugar brokers. If these rumours are true—and from what we have heard we fear it is so—it is scandalous that with stories of German frightfulness ringing in our ears, within a stone's throw of scenes reddened with the blood of non-combatants, there should exist Englishmen who not only contemplate, but look forward to relieving the countries guilty of atrocities of every description of their surplus sugar at the expense of our own sugar-producing colonies. No amount of refiners' "char" can free the German sugar from the blood of the victims of the Zeppelin raids, of the *Lusitania* victims, and of the heroic Nurse Cavell, and every true Briton must surely revolt from using sugar tainted with countless horrible crimes. It is not an overstatement to say that before August of last year the Teuton language was as familiar as the English in many parts of the "Lane." Are we to go back to this state of things after the horrors of the war? Is the re-Germanisation of Mincing Lane to be allowed?

#### DOMINICA'S DEPENDENCE ON LIMES.

WE are glad to notice that Mr. JOSEPH JONES, in his very interesting report on the Agricultural Department of Dominica for the year 1914-15 calls attention to the grave danger of the island having, agriculturally and metaphorically speaking, all its eggs in one basket—a matter with which we recently dealt at some length in these columns. "Dominica," he says, "is now, for the third time in the course of a century, becoming almost completely dependent on a single industry. What has happened in the past in connection with coffee cultivation, and later with sugar cultivation, may happen again. Pests and diseases, synthetic chemistry, great economic changes, or stress of competition may sooner or later cause the lime industry to become unprofitable. Many of our planters know from actual experience what dependence on a single industry means. Should the lime, practically our only industry, fail, owing to disease or to great economic changes, as in the case of coffee, or become unremunerative as in the case of sugar, a long period of poverty and depression would follow, during which the best elements of all classes would leave the island. Recovery from this loss of capital and population would be, as on the two former occasions, a long process. Many years would pass before other industries could be established, and confidence restored in the capabilities of the island's agriculture." We hope that these words of warning will be weighed carefully by the Dominica planters, who should individually and collectively use every endeavour to extend the cultivation of other agricultural products besides the lime. Mr. JONES considers it essential that greater encouragement should be given to the cultivation of cacao and grape-fruit; but it is to be feared neither of these products is likely to relieve Dominica from its overwhelming dependence on the lime tree. The exports of cacao are still steadily declining, and problems of freight militate against the success of fresh fruit industries. On the other hand, the situation with regard to coco-nuts is full of promise. Visitors from the East who possess first-hand knowledge of coco-nut plantations have been much impressed by the appearance and vigour of the palms in Dominica, and they consider the island is well suited for this cultivation. There are considerable areas of land on the Windward Coast, where the palm thrives even better than on the Leeward Coast, where it is at present mainly planted, and these, Mr. JONES thinks, could be utilised for coco-nuts, were capital forthcoming for the undertaking. Several pages of the report are devoted to rubber, which may be regarded as a potential industry of some promise. Experiments with this form of cultivation which have been carried out by the local Department of Agriculture have proved conclusively that should the time come for the island to take seriously to rubber cultivation, the only species which can be grown with any prospect of success is the Para rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*), for which both the soil and climatic

conditions of Dominica appear to be well suited. Incidentally, in the course of his search for new industries, MR. JONES has, by invoking the aid of Kew, been able to establish the fact that the Sapodilla Tree (*Achras sapota L.*) in the West Indies yields as good gum or "chicle" (the basis of chewing-gum) as the trees of British Honduras and Guatemala. A perusal of MR. JONES' informative report leaves us with the impression that not a stone is being left unturned in the efforts to establish subsidiary industries, and it will be through no fault of the local Department of Agriculture if they do not ultimately meet with success.

### THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Passed by the Press Censor for publication.)

#### An Allied War Council.

The lack of cohesion and co-ordination in the military operations of the Allies is to be remedied by the organization of a War Council, consisting of the French and British Staffs and the chief Cabinet Ministers of the two countries. They are to meet at a round table for consultation and discussion, and, in this way, can settle matters, which, otherwise, would be held up between Paris and London for weeks. The first of these Conferences took place in Paris lately. Mr. Asquith, in announcing the new departure suggested that it would be desirable for Italy and Russia to co-operate. But neither was represented, on this occasion, at any rate. Does it mean that only the Balkans situation was discussed, and that for the present neither can participate? This is comprehensible with regard to Russia, but not with regard to Italy, unless, indeed, it is true that until she declares war on Germany—which she has not yet done—she cannot give us any aid in the Balkans.

So complicated is the position in the Balkans, indeed, that it beats all records of that seething cauldron of deadly animosities and warring interests. One point is settled advantageously in our favour, inasmuch as Greece has met the demands of the Entente Powers by allowing them liberty of action in Greek territory, and, in the event of the worst happening, agreeing that there is to be no disarmament of the Allies' forces. But the best guarantee of these conditions being observed is the ability to resist the enemy's advance. The very fact that provision for the reverse and retreat of the Anglo-British-Serbian forces is made will, however, render it unlikely that they will come to pass. Foresight and co-ordination of our resources are beginning to tell on our side.

#### The War in the Balkans.

Here interest centres breathlessly. The enemy are close to every line of retreat and of advance; they not only hold the Danube, the best positions on the frontiers and the railway line from Vienna to Constantinople, but in addition to

the Serbian harvest, which they have seized, they have now access to Bulgaria's two years' stocks of food-stuffs. The one favourable outstanding fact is the preservation of the Serbian Army intact. So stubbornly is it fighting that strategical positions are being taken and retaken, and the possession of farmsteads and entrenched hillocks by the Drina and Morava Rivers are contested for a week at a time. The trouble is that while the Austro-Germans and Turco-Bulgarians have effected a junction of their forces, the Allies have, so far, failed to attain this desirable end. Had General Serrail been able to unite with the Serbians at the Babuna Pass, the Bulgarian flank could have been turned. But thanks to a policy of dribbles in reinforcements he arrived too late. Nevertheless his fine generalship enabled him to seize the line of the Cerna, besides safeguarding the railway just beyond Strumnitza, where the enemy might have destroyed the tunnel, and occupying the height of Kara Hodjali. It should be noted that General Serrail is operating away from the railway in extremely difficult country.

#### The Hard-pressed Serbians.

In the north the enemy is pressing on the Serbians from three sides. The main body is thus being headed off from retreat into Northern Albania, the southern detachment is being steadily pressed back in the Uskub region by the Bulgarian Army, strongly reinforced, and operating from Veles. Tetevo on the edge of the Kossovo plain, which has been the scene of many a decisive battle involving the fate of empires, races and kingdoms, is one of those places, which has changed hands more than once within the past few weeks. Should it fall beyond recapture the Serbians, cut off from the main army and from the French force on this front would be compelled to retire on Greek or Albanian territory. The Bulgarian left wing, though it has captured the Babuna Pass, has not yet advanced on Monastir, either for political reasons, or because part of it may have been sent northwards to help Bojadjeff, who was meeting with strong resistance in the mountains about Leskovac. The Germans evidently aim at enveloping the Serbian Army here, and then at dealing with the Serbian and Allied forces in Macedonia. But they have several times since the war began been as near to carrying out their favourite tactics with success, and failed. Unfortunately with Koeness in occupation of Novi Bazar and Mitrovitza, and Gallwitz in possession of Prishtina, it is not easy to see how the Serbians are to make a prolonged stand east of the Kossovo plateau. They must be destroyed, retreat into Albania, or cut their way to the lower Vardar, when the Austro-German-Bulgarian Army of 400,000 men will be able to hurl themselves on the Franco-British forces. On them, then, will fall the task of barring the road to Salonika as the Franco-British armies barred the way of the Germans to Calais. As the odds are no greater on this near Eastern front than they were in Flanders they should be able to give a good account of themselves. The last word

is not with the Central Powers but with the Allied Powers, who command the sea. In this connection it is good to know that Russia is preparing fresh millions of men to take the field, and is being well supplied with guns and munitions by Japan.

#### On the Eastern Front.

General Russky has brought such intense pressure to bear upon the Germans in the Riga district that his forces are now within striking distance of the Tukku-Mitau railway, the only really effective line of communication open to the enemy in this inhospitable region. Moreover they have occupied all the firm ground from Lake Kangar to the marsh of Turul, while the Germans at many points are floundering in the marshes. In the Dvinsk region Hindenburg's prolonged attacks have come to an end, and our Allies are regaining the positions which they lost. But there is no telling what may happen when the frost hardens the ground.

In the south General Linsingen is similarly held up without gaining his objective. For a whole month he has been fighting determinedly to recover the line of the Styr, which the Russians seized so brilliantly five weeks ago. Compelled by the high ground on one flank, and the marshy ground on the other, to attack the middle of the salient, he succeeded in reaching it only to be driven back again. The Russians are thus still in possession of Czar-torysk on the left bank of the river, and have foiled the enemy's attempts to seize the railway bridge to the north. They are, too, in possession of all the passages at and below Kolk to the south. At any rate till the weather alters, Rovno, together with the lateral railway across the Pinsk marshes is beyond the enemy's reach.

#### Good News from Persia.

In one part of the East, at any rate, Allied diplomacy has scored a success. The German, Austrian and Turkish representatives in Persia, taking advantage of the popular excitement consequent on a religious festival, established a fortified camp outside Teheran, and were on the point of inducing the Shah to join them, when it would have been given out that Persia had thrown in her lot with the Central Powers. The effect would have been detrimental to our prestige in the Middle East. Fortunately the Russians had a military force available within a day's march, so that there was adequate backing for the Allied diplomacy, which, no doubt, impressed upon the Shah what he owed to England, and that there was an ex-Shah in Russia who would be only too glad to return to Persia as Sovereign. At all events, he thought better of leaving his capital, and the British and Russian representatives, who have acted with such decision, have the situation so well in hand, that before long enemy agents and nations will be required to leave Persian territory.

#### The War at Sea.

The British force of submarines in the Baltic has been strengthened. By patient and skilful manœu-

ring the largest flotilla, which has yet reached this sea, escaped enemy vigilance in the Sound and the Cattegat. Apparently information as to its movements arrived in Germany too late.

Off the coast occupied by the Germans a Russian destroyer has sunk a German guardship, which had been sent out further than usual on scouting duty. All but 20 of her crew were drowned. It is, therefore, evident that Allied naval activity in the Baltic is ceaseless and well-directed.

#### The Enemy and Hospital Ships.

German Wireless Press messages are reiterating that British hospital ships are used for carrying troops and munitions of war. As this campaign of lying usually preshadows outrages by German submarines, the Admiralty have issued a categorical denial that British hospital ships violate the Hague Convention regulating their use in a single particular. There are 42 of them steaming to and from the Mediterranean, where enemy submarines are for the present most active.

The hospital ship *Anglia*, which sank in home waters, with a loss of 72 lives, was lost by striking a mine. Three hundred of the crew and passengers were saved by a patrol vessel.

If the way the *Birkenhead* went down is part of our national distinction, so, also, should be the sinking of the Australian transport *Southland* in the Aegean Sea. After it was torpedoed, and its loss was inevitable, the men were lined up on the decks with the perfect discipline of an ordinary parade. There was neither haste nor panic, and the boats were lowered and manned by rule and with a skill and coolness, which largely contributed to saving all but 34 out of the 1,600 soldiers on board. Before the ship sunk those who were not engaged in saving life, sang their favourite chorus "Australia will be there," surely a memorable scene even in our naval annals. After this who shall dare to cavil at Australian discipline? It should be noted that she has decided to raise an additional 50,000 men for active service. Up to the present she has sent to the European fronts 200,000 men.

(To be continued.)

THE S.S. *Coronado*, which reached Avonmouth on November 22nd, brought 163 cases of oranges, 45 cases of grape fruit, preserves, etc., collected by the Jamaica Agricultural Society for the sick and wounded. Included in the shipment was a war gift of Guava jelly from Grand Cayman.

"Cacao," "The Banana" (7s. 6d. each; post free 8s. 4d.), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5s.; post free 5s. 4d.



**THE WEED-WOMAN.**

A familiar figure in Georgetown, Demerara.

## THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

### Officers entertained at the Lyceum Club.

The Officers of the British West Indies Regiment were entertained by members of the Lyceum Club at dinner on Monday, November 22nd. Miss Pullen Burry, F.R.G.S., presided, and the hostesses included Mrs. Cunningham Craig, Miss Jane Hardy, Miss A. James, Lady Lamb, Miss Moseley, Miss Quetta Maude, Mrs. Massey, Miss Stewart, and Mrs. Yorke Trotter. Among the guests of honour besides the officers were the Countess of Stamford, Sir Sydney and Lady Olivier, Sir James and Lady Hayes Sadler, and Sir William and Lady Grey-Wilson.

The idea of the dinner originated with Miss Jane Hardy, whose grandfather raised a regiment for the defence of Roseau against the French in 1805. The tables were decorated with tropical palms and Poinsettias, and okra soup and other West Indian delicacies figured in the menu.

After the usual loyal toasts, Miss Pullen Burry cordially welcomed the representatives of the West Indian Contingent. She referred to the splendid response of the West Indies to the call of the Mother Country. After speaking of the exquisite beauty of the islands, she said that she would always remember with pleasure her visits to the Caribbean. Responding to the toast of the West Indian Contingent, Sir Sydney Olivier spoke of the pride and pleasure with which he looked back on his associations with the West Indies. He was indeed glad to be able to do all in his power to further the objects of the West Indian Contingent Committee, of which he was Treasurer. He then proceeded to give a list of the many gifts which had been received from the West Indies since the war began, including aeroplanes, ambulances, fruit, preserves, and arrowroot for the sick and wounded, and chocolate for our soldiers and sailors. He explained that the Contingent which had now come over was the outcome of the determination of the peoples of the West Indies to stand shoulder to shoulder with those of the other parts of the Empire. (Applause.) No sooner had the war broken out than a stream of volunteers began to flow from these distant islands, many of the men sacrificing everything and working their way over to serve their King and Country.

Captain Tough, of Antigua, who replied on behalf of the officers, was most sympathetically received. Speaking as a soldier, he said he thought that all the men of the West Indian Contingent were animated by one idea—that it was not only a duty, but a privilege, to be able to uphold the British tradition in the face of the German onslaught. (Applause.) Men must feel that in this war women were playing as noble a part as they were, and that the mothers and wives had shown as much bravery and devotion as the men. In the circumstances, he and his fellow-officers were delighted that their first public welcome should have come from the ladies of the Lyceum Club.

Sir William Grey-Wilson in a short and very witty speech thanked the hostesses for their hospitality. Miss Pullen Burry had apologised for the "chastened" hospitality which the Club was extending to its guests. Travelling once in West Africa, he had arrived at a camp at a late hour, and was offered for dinner a live calf! (Laughter.) His hostesses on that occasion were nine Princesses each carrying a large horn of snuff. (Renewed laughter.) His experiences of this evening were happier ones, for he felt that the hostesses were setting a noble example in showing their appreciation of the patriotism of the West Indian Contingent. (Applause.)

Miss James, responding for the hostesses, said that

they had listened with great delight to the stirring accounts of Sir Sydney Olivier. There was only one thing that she would like to add about the list of offerings given by Sir Sydney; much of the money to pay for the endless list of aeroplanes, ambulances, etc., had been provided by the pence of the very poor. If one wanted to find the reason for all this self-sacrifice, one must go back to the "spacious days of great Elizabeth," when Drake, Raleigh, and so many others conquered what had been the Spanish Main. It would be impossible to exaggerate the wealth and political importance of the West Indian colonies. At the Treaty of Paris in 1763 it was proposed that Canada should be returned to France, and St. Lucia kept instead. Those were the West Indies of Addison, Thackeray, and so many other writers, "rich beyond the dreams of avarice." (Applause.)

But then came evil days; social upheavals, beet, and, worst of all, indifference at home brought our oldest possessions to the verge of ruin. We might not have seen the splendid response made by the West Indies had it not been for the great work of Joseph Chamberlain (Applause.) It was a happy coincidence that close to the Nelson statue in Barbados stood the Chamberlain Bridge.

### The Contingent Committee.

The fourth meeting of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the Colonial Office on Friday, November 26th, at 4.30 p.m. Sir Everard im Thurn presided, and the members present were Sir Edward Ward, Sir James Hayes Sadler, Sir William Grey-Wilson, Sir Robert Llewelyn, Sir Sydney Olivier, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Hon. Sec.), and Mr. Bernard Bonyun (Assistant Hon. Sec.). Mr. G. E. A. Grindle was also present by invitation.

The following correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies was laid on the table:—

5th November, 1915.

Sir,—By desire of my Chairman I have the honour to submit for your information a brief report regarding the formation and objects of the West Indian Contingent Committee.

2. The Army Council having accepted the offer of the British West Indian Colonies, British Guiana and British Honduras, to supply a Contingent for service with the Imperial Forces, the West Indian Contingent Committee has, at your instance, Sir, been formed to provide for the comfort and welfare of the men comprising it, as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come from the West Indies to serve their King and Country. The Governor of Bermuda, from which Colony a Detachment is already at the front, has accepted the offer of the Committee to help the men from that Colony also.

3. At the inaugural meeting of the Committee, Sir Everard im Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B., was elected Chairman, and at succeeding meetings Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., and Mr. R. Rutherford were nominated Hon. Treasurers, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall and Mr. Bernard Bonyun have been appointed Hon. Secretary and Hon. Assistant Secretary respectively. The Executive comprises, in addition to those named above the following gentlemen who have an intimate knowledge of the West Indies:—

The Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O., President of the West India Committee (Incorporated), Lord Glenconner, Sir Charles Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Lt.-Col. Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B., Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir William Grey Wilson, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., Mr.

Edward R. Davson, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and Mr. J. Rippon.

4. As you, Sir, are no doubt, aware, steps have already been taken to provide for the welfare of the Contingents from Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Ceylon, and Fiji, and it will be the object of the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide similarly for the well-being of the men from Bermuda, the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, most of whom have been drawn from untravelled classes and are consequently less familiar with the circumstances of life in European communities, than are the men from other overseas parts of the Empire.

5. In September last an appeal for subscriptions (copies of which are appended) was issued and subscriptions amounting to £2,272 have already been received towards a fund which is being raised to enable the Contingent Committee to carry out the objects which it has in view. These will include the rendering of assistance and advice to the men while they are in training or on furlough, or when wounded and in hospital, and, as far as funds permit, the provision for their accommodation during convalescence after discharge from hospital. The Committee proposes to provide such bodily comforts as are not issued by the War Office, but may be needed, and in this connection it may be mentioned that a Ladies' Committee has been formed under the Presidency of the Countess of Stamford, with Miss Moseley, the Proprietor and Editor of the *Nassau Guardian* (Bahamas), as Hon. Sec. Mr. R. Hurbidge, on behalf of Messrs. Harrods Stores, Ltd., having generously offered a house, free of rent, the address of the Ladies' Committee will be 5, Trevor Square, S.W., which will be made a clearing house for gifts received from the West Indies, and a centre where working parties may meet to make such warm clothing, and bandages, etc., etc., as may be needed from time to time. It is further proposed to receive and store civilian clothing of the men of the Contingent who may desire to avail themselves of the facilities offered. The members of this Ladies' Committee will comprise Lady Le Hunte, Hon. Mrs. Henry Edwardes, Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Cunningham Craig, Mrs. James Richmond, besides the wives of any members of the Executive who are willing to give their services.

6. It is fully recognised that the men of the West Indian Contingent are primarily under the care of the Military Authorities, and of the Colonial Office; but it is felt that the Army Council and the Secretary of State for the Colonies will welcome the help which the Committee, composed, as it is, chiefly of men with special experience of the West Indies, can and will always readily give by explaining and giving advice regarding any special requirements of the West Indian soldiers. In this connection it is felt that the fact that Sir Edward Ward has kindly consented to act as a member of the Committee will greatly facilitate intercommunication between the Committee and the responsible Government Departments.

7. In conclusion, I am desired to state that the Headquarters of the West Indian Contingent Committee are at the Rooms of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., which have been kindly placed at their disposal.

I have the honour, etc.,  
ALGERNON F. ASPINALL,  
Hon. Secretary.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Downing Street,  
20th November, 1915.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt on the 6th November of your letter dated the 5th November from which he notes with satisfaction the progress made by the West Indian Contingent Committee and also the generous offer by Messrs. Harrods Stores, Limited, of a house, free of rent, for the use of the Ladies' Committee.

2. Your letter is being brought to the notice of the Governors of the Colonies concerned.

3. Mr. Bonar Law is inviting Sir G. R. Le Hunte, the

Governor of Trinidad, who has returned to this country prior to his retirement from that office to join the Committee.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
(Signed) H. J. READ,  
for the Under Secretary of State.

The Honorary Secretary,  
West Indian Contingent Committee.

### The Ladies' Committee.

Princess Marie Louise attended the inaugural meeting of the Ladies' Committee, which has been formed to assist the West Indian Contingent Committee, at 5, Trevor Square, on November 29th. Sir Everard im Thurn, who presided, at the outset explained the objects of the Committee, which are to provide the men of the British West Indies regiment with the additional comforts, to form working parties for making warm things, and generally to look after the well-being of the men. In the absence of Lady Philipps, who was appointed Chairman, Lady Davson presided, and a working Sub-Committee was appointed, comprising Lady Hodgson, Lady Grey-Wilson, and Lady Olivier, with Princess Marie Louise, Patron, the Countess of Stamford, President, and Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary, ex-officio members. It was stated that the following ladies, many of whom were present at the meeting, had consented to join the Committee:—Lady Glenconner, Lady im Thurn, Lady French, Lady Le Hunte, Lady Hayes Sadler, Lady Fleming, Lady Hodgson, Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Llewelyn, Lady Olivier, Lady Philipps, Lady Sendall, Lady Davson, the Hon. Mrs. Henry Edwardes, Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Cunningham Craig, Mrs. Moody Stuart, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Mrs. James Richmond, Mrs. Rippon, Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Wade, Mrs. Algernon Aspinall, and Mrs. Bonynn.

### The Progress of the Fund.

In stating that the men who were coming over to serve in the British West Indies Regiment would number 5,000, we were, it now appears, understating the case, for already 6,000 men are "in sight," and it is clear that efforts must be made to secure a corresponding increase in the West Indian Contingent Fund, the total of which is now £2,833 12s. 0d. Since the last list was published, the following contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd. ....	52	10	0
The Government of Antigua (earmarked for purchase of a Christmas gift for the men from that Colony) (per the Crown Agents for the Colonies) ....	34	0	0
Captain David Slinger ....	25	0	0
Hon. Sydney Cuthbert ....	10	10	0
Hon. D. C. Cameron ...	5	5	0
His Excellency the Hon. W. L. Allardye, C.M.G. ....	5	0	0
His Honour Mr. Justice A. Earnshaw ...	5	0	0
Thomas E. Peters, Esq. ....	5	0	0
Mrs. Richmond ...	3	3	0
John H. Scarlett, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Richard P. Pile, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Lewis Anderson, Esq. ...	1	1	0

## AGRICULTURE IN DOMINICA.

	£	s.	d.
E. G. L. Goffe, Esq., M.D., B.S. ....	1	1	0
L. S. Gruchy, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Edward O. Johnson, Esq., I.S.O. ....	1	1	0
R. Kirke, Esq. ....	1	1	0
J. Johnstone Kirke, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Jas. K. Morrison, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Lt. F. J. Richmond, R.E. ....	1	1	0
R. D. Richmond, Esq., I.P.S. ....	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Turner ....	1	1	0
J. W. Cathcart, Esq. ....	1	0	0
George B. Bvelyn, Esq. ....	1	0	0
C. Lyon Hall, Esq. ....	1	0	0
Mrs. A. P. Browne (earmarked for gloves)	15	0	0
The Misses Payne (earmarked for gloves)	10	0	0

The object of the Fund is to enable the Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort of the men of the Bermudian and West Indian Contingents, as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come over to fight for their King and Country. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Fund, 75, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following gifts received during the past fortnight:—

A gramophone from Edward R. Davson, Esq.  
Gramophone records from E. A. de Pass, Esq.  
Mittens, Miss Gardner, 1 pair; Mrs. Gall, 1 pair.  
Warm gloves from Mrs. Graham-Harrison, 50 pairs; Mrs. Holme, 12 pairs; Mrs. Acland, 4 pairs; Mrs. E. F. Connellan, 4 pairs; Mrs. Gordon, 3 pairs; Miss Wing, 3 pairs; "Aton," 2 pairs; Miss Doughty, 1 pair; Miss Plaiice, 1 pair.  
Scarf: Mrs. Gall 1.

The Editors of the following newspapers have kindly consented to supply copies of their publications for the Regimental Reading Room: The Jamaica Daily Gleaner, Daily Chronicle, and Times; the Trinidad Post of Spain (Gazette); the Barbados Advocate and Agricultural Reporter; the British Honduras Clarion and Independent; the Dominica Voice; the St. Vincent Sentry.

During the year to date 117 new members have been elected to the West India Committee (Incorporated), residing in the following places:—

Trinidad ... ..	13	Bahamas ... ..	2
British Guiana ... ..	12	Nevis ... ..	2
Barbados ... ..	11	Anguilla ... ..	1
Jamaica ... ..	9	Cayman Islands ... ..	1
Grenada ... ..	6	Canada ... ..	1
St. Vincent ... ..	6	Nigeria ... ..	1
Tobago ... ..	6	Uganda ... ..	1
Montserrat ... ..	5	London ... ..	18
Antigua ... ..	4	Country ... ..	7
Dominica ... ..	3	Colombia ... ..	1
St. Kitts ... ..	3	Venezuela ... ..	1
British Honduras ... ..	3		

The West India Committee's coloured wall-map of the West Indies (size 3ft. 9in. by 2ft. 10in.) is supplied to subscribers to the CIRCULAR, members of the West India Committee, and educational authorities in the West Indies at the special price of 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; and 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions.

Progress in the development of the new lime experiment station in the valley to the south of Morne Bruce, in Dominica, is recorded in Mr. Jones' report on the local Agricultural Department for 1914-15. Eight acres are already devoted to lime cultivation, which is in a very flourishing condition. New varieties of oranges and grape-fruit have been planted, and small plot experiments with camphor, Honduras mahogany, and shea butter have also been started.

During the year, work in the nurseries was active, the distribution of plants having included no fewer than 65,170 lime, 477 cacao, and 271 vanilla, besides many budded citrus fruit plants. Among imported plants which are showing promise are included six varieties of selected mangos introduced from India in 1912.

Dealing with economic plants, Mr. Jones quotes reports on the Para rubber shown at the London Rubber Exhibition. These reports were not unsatisfactory, the valuation being only about 3d. per lb. less than that of fine hard Para rubber at the corresponding date. The specimen of *Funtumia* rubber was very highly spoken of.

A considerable portion of the Report is taken up with the report of the work connected with insect and fungus pests and their control, notably in connection with limes, and the conclusions arrived at were that the black root disease was due to specific fungus, which can exist in wood buried in the ground, and which infects the roots of healthy lime trees. The preventive measures advocated consist in the destruction by fire of all diseased material, and the prevention by trenching of the spread of the disease underground.

The lime crop of the island has been maintained, due to the new areas coming into bearing. Calculated as barrels, the crop was 388,000 barrels, slightly below the 391,000 barrels of the preceding year. Of this crop, 57 per cent. was in the form of concentrated juice, 13 per cent. in the form of raw juice, 11.5 per cent. as fresh lime, and 18 per cent. as citrate of lime.

A serious loss in the lime industry is the lack of co-ordination between the work in the field and in the factory, due either to inferior crushing of the limes or wasteful concentration of the juice.

The actual exports of lime products were as follows, the total value being £187,031:—

Product.	Quantity.	Value
Concentrated lime juice ...	148,179 galls. ...	£68,754
Raw lime juice ...	379,875 .. ...	25,753
Raw juice cordial ...	4,966 .. ...	564
Green limes ...	45,283 brils. ...	43,237
Pickled limes ...	572 .. ...	572
Citrate of Lime ...	5,191 cwt. ...	38,013
Essential oil of limes ...	3,984 galls. ...	4,176
Otto of limes ...	1,619 .. ...	5,962

The increase in values over the crop of 1913 amounted to £44,369.

## THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

### Experiments in Barbados.

The cotton experiments for improving the quality and increasing the quantity of lint from the Sea Island cotton grown in Barbados were actively continued last year. An account of the system followed is given by Mr. J. R. Bovell, Superintendent of Agriculture, in his report. The experiments are, it seems, carried on in two series. In the first an effort is being made by a system of the selection of the best formed plants giving heavy yields of good lint to improve Sea Island, and also certain indigenous, and other varieties of cotton. In the second series an attempt is being made in the same manner to improve a number of hybrid cottons that have been obtained by crossing some of the best of the improved varieties among themselves, as well as some of the imported varieties with some of the indigenous cottons.

In these experiments a certain number of the plants which are healthy, vigorous and cone-shaped, from 4 to 6 feet high, compact in habit, with the central stem having numerous lateral branches, short internodes and bolls at almost each internode, are marked with a piece of red braid and a stake is placed against each selected plant, so that it can easily be seen from a distance and readily found. This year as the flowers were sufficiently matured, they were, instead of being bagged, wired after the manner devised by Mr. W. W. Gilbert, and described in Bulletin 99 of the Georgia Experiment Station, entitled "Mendelian Inheritance in Cotton Hybrids." At the same time a label is attached and a portion of one of the bracts removed so that it can be easily seen to which boll the label belongs. In the method of wiring as soon as the corolla and anthers are sufficiently dry they fall and so there is a saving of labour.

During the growth of the marked plants notes are made as to their immunity or otherwise to insect pests, fungoid and bacterial diseases, and also to their habit, maturity, etc. If it is found that such plants are to any extent attacked by insect pests, fungoid or bacterial diseases they are rejected. As soon as the bolls open, the lint is examined and if found not up to standard, such plants are also rejected. On the other hand, as the bolls, the flowers of which were bagged, open and the cotton is found to be of good quality, it is picked as fast as it reaches maturity, and put into a small bag which is kept in a large bag that has been numbered to correspond to the numbered label that has been attached to the plant. As the cotton produced by the bolls from the non-bagged flowers ripens, it is gathered and put into the larger bag. As soon as the plants cease bearing, the seed cotton from each plant is weighed and the lint from the bolls, the flowers of which were self-fertilized, is carefully examined as to the characters which go to make up the best quality lint. To these various characters marks are assigned and the seed from the plants that obtained the highest number of marks is reserved for planting on the experimental plots the following year.

In future, if it is desired to extend the cultivation of any special variety, the seeds from the bolls, the flowers of which were not bagged, will, if needed, now that some of the varieties have been improved, be used for extending the cultivation of that variety. If any plant is found not true to type it will be ruled out.

### AGRICULTURE IN GRENADA.

About 1,000 tons of sugar were imported into Grenada in 1914; but there is some hope that the island may soon become self-supporting as regards its sugar supply. As the result of enquiries made by the local Agricultural Department, it is estimated that there are 7,430 acres of land available and suitable for sugar-cane cultivation in Grenada. Some increase in the area under canes has already taken place recently, more particularly in the southern part of the island, where a modern plant has been installed for the manufacture of a superior grade of muscovado sugar.

With respect to cacao, Mr. J. C. Moore, the Superintendent of Agriculture, in his annual report states that there are indications that root diseases are probably more widely distributed in the island than is generally suspected, and he adds that the exercise of great vigilance in their detection, and the adoption of all practical methods for their control and eradication cannot be too strongly recommended when cacao is the mainstay of the country, as in Grenada.

### JAMAICA'S SPLENDID OFFER.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has made public a telegram received from the Governor of Jamaica to the Imperial Government, in which His Excellency states that, in reply to His Majesty's message, the elected members of the Council are prepared to respond to the fullest extent of the island's resources, and that as an earnest of their determination to support the Empire in the great struggle for the principles of liberty and civilisation, they offer to provide for an increased number of men from the colony, and pay all attendant cost to the extent of a total charge of £60,000 per annum for forty years.

To this message the following reply was despatched:—

"His Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction patriotic offer of increased number of men in reply to King's message, and desire to express sincere thanks to elected members for generous offer to pay attendant cost to extent of £60,000 per annum for 40 years.—Donar Law."

"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," by W. Fawcett, is a standard work which is indispensable to all who are connected with the great banana industry, whether as proprietors, producers, managers, overseers, or shippers. Copies are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7s. 6d., or post free 8s.



## THE WEED-WOMAN.

## A Characteristic Study from Demerara.

By J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK.

"Weed! Weed!"

"Lady wi' de bush!"

"Ma'am. Eh—ch—a who call me?"

"Me, sister. Come, no!"

The old woman enters the yard, and, taking the basket from her head, puts it on a step at the "door-mouth."

She is one of the old type of negro. The red headkerchief contrasts vividly in the sunlight with a very black face, wrinkled and puckered with age. Her trade, too, is of a sort that within the next twenty years may have become obsolete—the gathering and hawking in bundles ("cent, cent!") of grasses, weeds, and roots used for medicinal purposes. She is the herbalist of the West Indies.

"You got any Bitter Tally?" asks the yard-woman, searching among the bundles in the basket.

"Aow! Is Bitter Tally you want? Ma'am, a lady down de road tek de last parcel a me Bitter Tally. You lated. Aow!"

"Well, neva mind. Wha' dis?"

"Dis, ma'am. Eh—ch. Leh me see. Me yeye a get li'l da'k."

"You mus' expec'," says the other.

The old woman pinches a leaf and smells it.

"Oh, dis. Ah!" She sucks her teeth. "Ah!" Tck. Tck. "Wha' wrong wi' me dis ma'nin'? Dis is Jumbi Balsam."

"Ma'am, a great tea," says another woman, coming up. "No, Titty?"

"Well, talk 'bout tea," says the weed-woman.

"Da, and Sweet Sage, an' Fowl Tongue is de onliest tea a does drink excep' on Sunday."

The other woman has her head tied with green leaves beneath a 'kerchief and hat. "Sister," she says, "you got anyting for de feva? Dis feva got me so bad now desc t'ree days a can scarce lif' me head."

"Fo' true?"

The weed-woman takes out the weeds from her basket—bundle by bundle, tied with a bit of bark stripped from the black-sage—and looks at them closely with eyes that have got a little filmy and dark with the years. Here is the withered scarlet flower of the Sweet Sage (*Lantana Camara*). Here are the round, prickly balls of Man Piabba (*Leonotis nepetifolia*). Here, in a calabash, with earth on them, is a cluster of Gully Root (*Peliveria alliacea*). And here, against the side of the basket, is a small bundle of grass.

"You know dis?" says the weed-woman "Lemon Grass! Ma'am, me gwine gi'e you dis, yeh. Boil um—no frighten, boil um strong, so drink um hot. Well, if he don' sweat out de feva out a you' bones, a dunno."

"Fo' true, you know," says the woman who had wanted the Bitter Tally. "Dis Lemon Grass does kill de feva in trut'. Well, if a tell you, ma'am, once a had de feva so bad—now, well, if you see me

you sorry fo' me; a did ready fo' dead. A call dis docta, a call de tarra; no n'use, ma'am, all de docta medicine a tek ent touch de complaint at all, at all."

"But docta medicine does ever cure feva!" interrupts the weed-woman.

"Well, cure or cure not, he ent cure me. Until and at last, a try dis Lemon Grass—hot, you know, and 'trong—and from den to now a ent know wha' name Feva."

"Very well," says the weed-woman.

\* \* \*

"Weed! Weed!"

The old cry is not heard so often now as it used to be before the red and blue globes of the "doctor-shop" became common. "First-time," the black people lived—and occasionally died, probably—by the use of bush-medicine in the case of such primitive-disorders as "the fever," "the cough," "bad bowels," and, in general, speaking at large, "the bad feelings." It is fashionable now to run down bush-medicine; yet I have met not one, but many an old man who has assured me solemnly that he had never drank "a cent senna" in his life, and had never seen a doctor, but had stuck to his "little weeds," and—whether because or in spite of them—had been able to keep wiry and active, and rather more than "a little brackish," to quite an advanced age.

I remember one old African I met—an unadulterated "Salt Water," with the mark of the Vagba tribe on his cheek—who said: "De tem you a see me call docta me sha' dead. Ye', my tell you, me go deady fo' true."

"Doctor go cure you," said I, in astonishment.

"Cure wha'! Docta sha' cure anybody. Me go deady, me tell ayon. Berry well."

"What make you call doctor, then?"

"Eh—eh? Colony no say if you go deady you mus' see docta?"

"If you go deady!"

"Ye', if you deady and you no see docta. Aow! too much troublly. Bakara no cutty you up. Family got too much troublly."

According to him, a doctor is useful to give a certificate of the cause of death, and so save a *post mortem* examination, but not otherwise.

The old Africans, and old negroes in general, have peculiar superstitions about some weeds. There is a herb whose botanical name is *Serjania Curassavica*; it is vulgarly known as "Bread-and-Cheese." The frayed stalk is used as a tooth-stick. It is an evil-wishing weed. If you clean your teeth with it in the morning, and then "speak" any evil wish during the day, that evil will happen as sure as fate.

"My mother never like to keep that bush in the house," I was told by the daughter of an Aku (Yoruba) woman, now dead.

"Why?"

"No, sir! You see, she had a plenty pickny, and she was a very hasty woman, and if, say, one of the children had troubled her during the day she might have said something, like, 'I wish that child might fall down them steps and break his neck,' and then,

of course, the thing would have happened. No, sir, she was very careful towards this Bread-and-Cheese."

By the side of the road, in the grass which grows on the parapet, here and there in a cane-piece, abundantly in an abandoned provision-ground, rooted in the muddy ooze at the side of a trench—here and hereabouts does the herbalist hunt for and pick her "little weeds them." Some of the weeds anybody could spot; the duller eye could hardly miss the scarlet blossoms of the wild ipecacuanha (*Asclepias Curassavica*), vaunting it in the sunlight. It takes the expert to detect at once the sprawling twiner Bitter Tally (*Mikania scandens*) in the bush, or the low herb—prime favourite with the old women—Flat-of-the-Earth (*Microtea debilis*).

"Before-time," said a weed-woman, "a could grow many a dem weeds an' t'ing in my yard, but now Inspector a bother people too bad. Dem tell you, 'Look! Ayou must' cut down all dis bush, hear. Dem a 'arbour mosquito.' Me a tell dem, 'Me massa, dem dis cut bush. Is weed—awee black people medicine.' 'No, no—weed or no weed, medicine or no medicine, you mus' cut am down. Dem a 'arbour mosquito.' You see story!"

"So you have to go far for your weeds now?"

"Far! Aow! Too far. You see da Lamaha? Well, on a Friday, a got fo' walk chalk dey fo' pick me li' weed."

"You alone?" I asked.

"Yessa. Me-one. Me grandson only a walk wi' me when he no mind cow. But most me-one does go. Tarra day one man meet me chalk aback, in da high-high bush. He say, 'Ol' lady, you no frighten fo' runaway man?' Me say, 'No, sah, a ent frighten. A does walk wi' my cutlass.' Onliest t'ing a don't like fo' meet up wit' is algeeta (alligator). Dey got some bad algeeta in some a dem trench, you know, sah, especially when dey got young wan. A does 'fraid algeeta too bad."

All of the old botanists who sojourned in the West Indies before time, and then wrote books which are a pleasure to linger over even now—Sloane and Plumier and Browne—all of them speak of certain of the negro medicines with respect. Sir Hans Sloane's note about the "Misseltoe" is equally apt as regards the empiric remedies of the weed-woman to-day:—

"A Negro-Doctor who was very famous for the Cure of Asthma's, made Use of this (the Miseltoe) gather'd off of Sweet-Wood, and Bean or Coral-Tree Tops, but altho' he sometimes cured with it, yet at other Times, he was not so fortunate."

THE REV. F. R. BRACEY contributes to the *Roman Catholic Review* for December an extremely interesting article on Eighteenth Century Grenada, in which he traces the part played by the Catholic Church in the island. He reminds us that the intolerance shown by the English planters after the peace of 1784 contributed in no small degree towards bringing about the rising of 1795.

## THE CLIMAX BOILER.

Of recent years one of the great developments in connection with steam power has been the use of water tube boilers; that is to say, boilers in which the water is inside the tubes instead of outside, as in the case of ordinary multitubular boilers. The relatively small quantity of water which they contain ensures quick steaming, not only directly from this cause, but also indirectly from the rapid circulation induced, while the fact that the tubes form the greater part of their weight renders them more

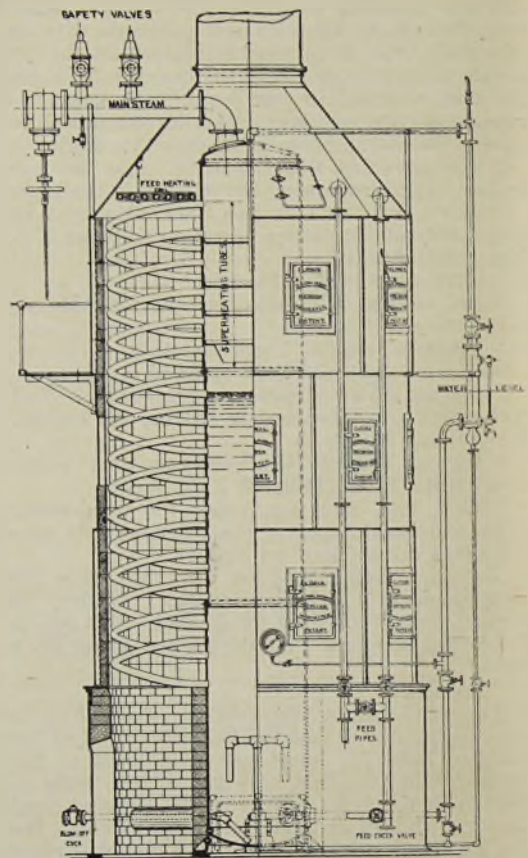


FIG. 1.—ELEVATION SHOWING BASE ADAPTED FOR MEGASS FURNACE.

easily transported and erected. Their concentration of power also makes them particularly suitable to certain conditions.

One of the most interesting boilers of this type is the Climax. Its forerunner, the Hazleton, or Porcupine boiler, consisted of a simple upright centre steel water column, from which blind tubes projected radially outward, the whole being enclosed in a firebrick casing in close contiguity to the end of the tubes, steam being taken from the top of the

column. Being vertical, this boiler had a furnace at the base, and the gaseous products of combustion ascended between the radiating tubes until they escaped, deprived of a large proportion of their heat, through the superimposed flue.

This simple boiler met with considerable success, but there was always the greater or less trouble arising from the sealing of the blind tubes in the absence of definite water circulation. It was this defect in the Porcupine boiler which led Morrin to invent the Climax, and the difficulty was overcome by a special design of tubes, which not only permitted greater concentration of heating surface, but also provided a definite course of circulation. These tubes are so moulded that both ends enter the centre column radially, and are of such a shape as to fit in with each other, and thus provide a maximum of heating surface in a minimum of space, every square inch of which is accessible to

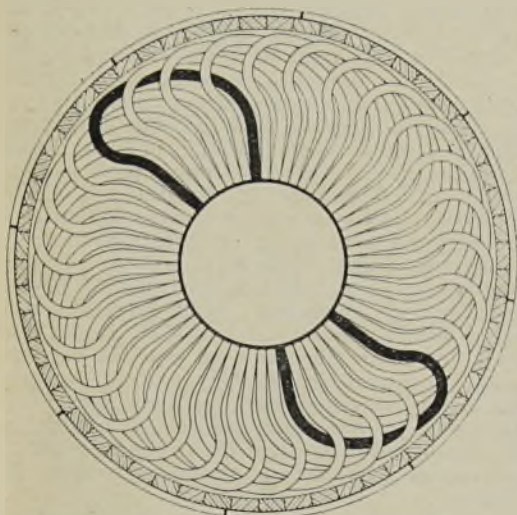


FIG. 2.—SECTION SHOWING ARRANGEMENT OF TUBES.

the ascending gases, and at the same time are free from any sharp bends or pockets likely to interfere with circulation or accumulate scale or dirt. Each tube is removable without interfering with the others, and their arrangement is such that, seen without the casing, the boiler presents the appearance of successive rings of coarse rope slung on the centre column.

There is, of course, no difficulty in obtaining and maintaining high working pressures with such a boiler. The Climax has, however, another great advantage, which it shares with the Porcupine—viz., the thorough drying and superheating of the steam it produces, the uppermost coil or coils of tubes being used for this purpose. This is well evidenced by the character of the steam escaping from the safety-valve, which is hardly visible, while with most boilers it is densely opaque. Further, the upper part of the casing, where it contracts to its junction with the bottom of the

flue, can be utilised to heat the feed water by means of a coil.

As might be expected from the structure of the boiler, the efficiency of the heating surface is extremely high. Bryan Donkin, the well-known engineer, in a complete test carried out with coal, found that no less than 3.27 lbs. of cold feed water were converted into steam at 191.7 lbs. pressure by each square foot of heating surface, an extremely high figure, and that the thermal efficiency—that is, the proportion utilised of the heat of the gases entering the boiler—was 79 per cent. These figures place the Climax boiler in the front rank of steam generators.

For cane sugar factory work a most desirable quality in a boiler is its adaptability to the special furnaces which are required for burning the crushed and extracted fibre of the cane, which supplies the fuel of the factory. This quality both the Climax and the Porcupine boilers especially possess, the space below the tubes at the base of the boiler admitting of being formed into an ideal chamber where the finishing touches can be given to the combustion of the gaseous products from the megass. Another important factor in the fuel economy of a cane sugar factory is the size of furnaces themselves. The fewer the furnaces for the burning of a given quantity of megass, the greater the economy of fuel. The Climax boiler, on account of the small ground space required, lends itself particularly to the central furnace system.

Then, again, there is another advantage in the Porcupine and Climax boilers. It frequently happens that sugar factories evolve from small beginnings, and the land available for extension is limited. For these cases these boilers are especially suitable, as an enormous amount of power can be concentrated in a limited floor space.

The cost of setting of a Climax boiler is, on account of its construction, small. The steel, fire-brick and casing is supplied with the boiler, and as the boiler itself supplies a certain amount of draught, a much less length of chimney is required. The only cleaning required is down through the casing doors, by a jet either of air or steam, which effectually frees the tubes from ash and dirt, an operation which can be carried out while the boiler is steaming.

No further negotiations with regard to the transatlantic mail service have taken place, and matters in this connection are at a standstill. But for the obstruction in the Panama Canal and consequent diversion of traffic from the Caribbean, it is possible that some arrangement might have been made with one of the steamship companies using the waterway to call at one of the West Indian islands on the voyage between this country and Pacific ports. This possibility will be revived when the Canal is re-opened. Meanwhile a majority of the West Indian colonies favours the suspension of the Intercolonial steamer service, the contract for which, in ordinary circumstances, would not expire until 1917.

## CONSULAR REPORTS.

### The Value of Factory Improvements.

The normal Hawaiian sugar crop may be taken now at between 550,000 and 600,000 tons.

The most noteworthy achievement during 1913-1914 in the factories was the grooving of mill rollers after the Maesschaert principle, and the study of mill-roller setting. As yet there are no figures available as to gains made due to changes in mill grooving and mill setting, but it is expected that they will run into large figures expressed in tons of sugar. It is known that nine roller mills, heretofore rendering an extraction of 93.5 per cent., have improved their efficiency as much as 3 per cent., and an appreciable gain has been made in every mill where the Maesschaert grooving has been adopted.

The immediate effect of the opening of the Panama Canal on Hawaiian trade has been the reduction of time required for transporting Hawaiian sugar to Atlantic coast ports.

The products of the coco-nut palm exported from Ceylon during the last six years have been as follows—

Year.	Desiccated	Copra.	Coco-nut
	Coco-nuts.		Oil.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
1909	230,791	784,522	599,795
1910	242,286	758,711	619,680
1911	292,210	821,814	505,016
1912	278,806	614,089	401,779
1913	303,808	1,117,292	546,984
1914	311,864	1,411,947	486,286

Some of the largest local buyers of coco-nuts were German firms, whose partners were interned as prisoners of war, and whose businesses were put in the hands of controllers. There has, however, been no lack of markets, and there is, says the Colonial Secretary in his annual report, every prospect of new and important markets being opened by the war.

### Improvement in Cacao Cultivation.

Sugar cane is grown on six estates in Surinam. The variety favoured is the Bourbon. The condition of cacao cultivation has greatly improved, and considerable success has attended the efforts of the planters to overcome the witchbroom disease which had made such ravages among the trees. The method employed was spraying with Bordeaux mixture. The other trouble was thrips. At the end of the year the prospects were brighter. The amount exported in 1913 (chiefly to the United States of America) was 15,280 bags of 100 kilos each.

During the year five shipments of bananas were made to Rotterdam and Liverpool by the steamship *Inataka*, of Booker Bros., Demerara, the fruit landing in fair condition. Proposals were made for filling the gap left by the withdrawal of the United Fruit Co., but were finally rejected by the Surinam planters last year. Meanwhile the cultivation went backwards. This industry was severely hit at the outset by disease among the Gros Michel bananas;

when they were replaced by the Congo, the fruit was not easily placed at a profit. A certain amount was locally bought by a factory drying the fruit and shipping abroad.

The production and value of the Balata industry is shown by the following figures:—

	Tons.	£
1909	630	129,617
1910	893	286,384
1911	1,146	367,511
1912	727	233,378
1913	1,056	380,486

## THE PROGRESS OF JAMAICA.

Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., read a paper entitled "Recent Developments in Jamaica" before the Colonial Section of the Royal Society of Arts this afternoon, in the course of which he said that two things principally struck him. First, that there had been a revival and development of agriculture and the resulting trade in Jamaica, illustrated in the figures of exports, which in 1885 were valued at £1,484,000 and in 1915 at £2,905,000, practically a doubling, and that this development had been produced on two different lines. Money had been made. A great amount of profit had been made out of bananas in Jamaica and Central America, and a great deal of money had been made by her people in wages in that cultivation; but almost all of this development had been effected, and almost all the profit enjoyed, not by Englishmen, but by Americans. Some Englishmen—or, more strictly, some Scotsmen—had indeed done well, but their interests were small as compared with the interests of the United Fruit Company. He always regretted that this work should have been done by Americans and not by English, and he was bound to say that the reason was that the Americans had shown greater enterprise and capacity.

Secondly, there had been a considerable internal development, and this had been done by English methods of stimulus. The development of the banana industry had been the development of a capitalised industry by very capable direction and organisation. The development of the internal agriculture had been brought about by a stimulus to the intelligence and aspirations of the population of the island; the schoolmasters in the elementary schools had been brought into it; it was bound up with the democratic organisation of the agricultural societies and the parish councils. It was very far as yet from having taken the hold of the people which it must yet do; but it had so far taken hold of them as to justify the belief that this movement had now thoroughly established itself as a vital force in every part of the island, and was already showing substantial material results.

Sir Sydney's paper was listened to by a large audience, and was the subject of favourable comment by Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., who presided, and other speakers.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

WE are glad to learn that the recent statement that Lieut. Hugh Beville Sweet-Escott has been missing since October is incorrect.

MAJOR CHARLES ALLEYNE, whose promotion has been rapid since the war began, has left for France, having been appointed to the General Headquarters Staff.

THE British Red Cross Society has received £2,500 for the purchase of six motor-ambulance cars as a Trafalgar Day gift from subscribers in the colony of the Bahamas.

MISS WINIFRED JAMES, the novelist, who has been living at Almirante, near Bocas del Toro, is relating her experiences in a book which will be published shortly, entitled "A Woman in the Wilderness."

BRITISH subjects resident in Havana have forwarded to the British Red Cross Society 70,000 cigars, 100,000 cigarettes, and 100 lbs. of guava jelly as a Christmas gift to our sick and wounded soldiers.

ALAS, "Joey" is no more. That famous and talkative macaw which used to follow Sir Robert Llewelyn about like a dog will be mourned by many visitors to Government House at Grenada in Sir Robert's day.

THE Library of the Institute of Jamaica has recently been enriched by a collection of 200 books, pamphlets, and Parliamentary reports dealing with the West Indies which have been presented to the Board by Colonel Dudley A. Mills, R.E.

"EARTHING up the mangoes" is the title of an illustration in the *Daily Graphic* depicting an agricultural scene near Chelmsford. Now that this exquisite tropical fruit has been acclimatised in Essex, we may hope to learn that the coco-nut groves in Kent are in bearing.

A FRENCH gold-mining company in Dutch Guiana had the perspicacity to plant Para rubber there in 1906—four years before the rubber boom. The seeds, which were first planted in nurseries, were subsequently transplanted on the hillside near the company's mine on the Brazilian frontier. The plants flourished, and this year, out of 40,000 trees, 9,000 will be tapped for the first time.

WE have to thank several correspondents for specimens of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross stamp. It consists of the ordinary penny stamp of the colony with an overprint of the red cross and the date 21.10.15. Only 100,000 of these stamps were issued, and they are being eagerly sought for

by philatelists. Commenting on the success of the Trinidad and Tobago issue, *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* advocates the publication of a Red Cross postage stamp in Great Britain, suggesting that they should be made available in booklets. A booklet of twelve penny and twenty-four halfpenny stamps, each surcharged a halfpenny for the Red Cross, would, our contemporary believes, sell to the tune of 2,000,000 booklets on the first day, yielding £150,000 to the British Red Cross Society and £200,000 to the revenue of the Post Office.

THE Trades Commissioner for the Union of South Africa gives advice to shippers of citrus fruit which should be equally heeded in the West Indies as in Africa. He points out that if the orange export trade is to be a success, growers must exercise the utmost care in packing and grading. Buyers in London are extremely particular, and if a mark shows up wasty they will rarely look at it again, whilst, on the other hand, they will often place orders a week ahead to secure the fruit of certain growers whose pack they know can more or less be depended upon, both for quality and condition. The strictest supervision should be exercised in the preparation of fruit for market. A very little extra care may not only prevent much loss, but may save a reputation which, once lost, cannot easily be re-established.

### THE GOVERNOR OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.

The King has approved the appointment of Major Sir John Robert Chancellor, R.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. (Governor of Mauritius), to be Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, in succession to Sir George R. Le Hunte, G.C.M.G.

Sir John Chancellor, who is only 45 years of age, will be the youngest Governor that Trinidad has had for many years, and we have to go back to the year 1843, when Colonel Sir Henry McLeod presided over the destinies of the colony, to find a predecessor who held military rank. Born in October, 1870, Sir John is the second son of Mr. E. Chancellor, of Woodhall, Juniper Green, Midlothian. After private education he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from which he passed into the Royal Engineers in 1890. He served in the Dongola Expedition with the Indian Contingent, for which he received the Khedive's and the Queen's Medal, and in the Tirah Expedition of 1897-8, and he was present at the capture of the Dargai heights, for which he was mentioned in despatches and received, besides the medal and three clasps, the D.S.O. He passed the Staff College in 1902, and in the following year was appointed Staff Captain of the Intelligence Department of the War Office. A year later he was made Assistant Military Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence, and in 1906 he was appointed Secretary to the Colonial Defence Committee, a position which he held until 1911, when he was made Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius. He was made a C.M.G., in 1909, and R.C.M.G., in 1913. He is married to the daughter of Mr. G. Rodie Thompson, of Lynwood, Ascot. Trinidad's youngest Governor was Sir Ralph Woodford, who received the appointment when he was only 29 years of age, and if Sir John Chancellor follows in his footsteps he will no doubt enjoy the respect and earn the gratitude of the inhabitants of the joint colony.

### THE LONDON LETTER.

PEOPLE are beginning to ask whether there should not be a Censor of speeches as well as of Press articles. Had such an official been in existence, the recent utterances of Lords St. Davids and Ribblesdale in the Gilded Chamber would certainly have gone by the board. The former made an altogether unwarranted attack on the General Headquarters Staff in France, crystallising foolish rumours about bridge, women, and late hours, which Lord Crewe, Lord Haldane, Captain F. Guest, M.P., and Major Norton Griffiths, M.P., have shown to be absolutely without foundation. Lord Ribblesdale let out secrets about the Dardanelles which, if true, should never have been divulged. Both speeches were in extremely bad taste, and especially Lord St. Davids'.

THE principles of the late Mr. Willett's famous "Daylight-Saving Bill" are gradually receiving general acceptance through stress of circumstances. For some time past the Stock Exchange, partly, perhaps, on account of lack of business, has been closing at 3 p.m. instead of 4 p.m., and now the Banks, owing to the shortage of clerks, are following suit. At many theatres evening performances are giving place to *matinées*, which appeal more to playgoers in consequence of the dangers of the darkened streets at night and the lack of "taxi's," and now, for the same reason, Harrods and many shops close at 5 p.m., an hour earlier than usual.

MR. HENRY FORD, of Michigan, U.S.A., the head of the Ford Motor Car Company, must already regret his indiscreet, not to say offensive, remarks about the Anglo-French Financial Commission, which, according to his views, should have been chased back to Europe with a tin can tied to it. A donation of ten thousand dollars to the Canadian Red Cross Fund has failed to placate the Canadians, who have been great users of his car, while here newspapers are declining to accept his advertisements, which were being placed on a liberal scale until the *World* called attention to the matter. The *Daily Mail* has even declined to accept payment for a full-page insertion which had already appeared.

TREVOR SQUARE, where the Ladies' Committee of the West India Contingent Committee has its headquarters, is one of those secluded oases between Knightsbridge and the Brompton Road. Now the property of Harrods Stores, who kindly lent No. 5 to the Committee, it is shortly to be rebuilt, and only tenancies terminable at short notice are granted.

THE Lewes Bench have awarded the exemplary punishment of six months' hard labour to Laurence Graham, a Seaford resident, for urging two West India soldiers not to fight for their country. Privates William Alexander and Joseph Griffith, of the British West Indies Regiment, gave evidence with great clearness. The prisoner, in such spare

moments as he is permitted to enjoy in the next six months, will have time to realise that it is no easy task to warp the patriotism of a West Indian soldier.

IN referring to the death of Lord Kesteven in last CIRCULAR, the writer omitted to mention that Mr. William Henry Trollope, the proprietor of Lord's Castle, in Barbados, the present head of the Trollope family, has succeeded to the Baronetcy held by the late Peer, which was created in 1642. Sir William Trollope visited Barbados in the winter of 1913-14. He is deeply interested in the historic associations of the West Indies, and has presented to the West India Committee several interesting old engravings, including a fine mezzotint of Dudley Woodbridge (A.D. 1780), a former proprietor of Porter's and its celebrated mahogany wood, and the exquisite coloured print of the Negroes' Sunday Market in Antigua (A.D. 1806) which adorned the Committee's calendar for 1914.

THE new regulations as regards the sale of liquor in the London area, which includes all clubs and licensed houses, came into operation yesterday. On week-days liquor can only be sold, and then only for cash, between the hours of noon and 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 and 9.30 p.m. If the liquor is being consumed at a meal, half an hour beyond the statutory time is allowed, and in the same connection it need not be paid for until the meal is concluded. While there has been some objection, principally on the part of dock labourers, on the whole the regulations have been taken by the populace in good part.

ONE of the most gratifying incidents that has occurred lately has been the election of Mr. Stanton for Merthyr, in place of Mr. Keir Hardie, the well-known pacifist. Although his opponent had the support of the Trades Unions and of the "peace-at-any-price party"—fortunately confined to a very few—Mr. Stanton, who is a working man, obtained a majority of upwards of 4,000 votes over his antagonist. His sentiments are "war-to-a-finish" and "conscription-if-necessary," and his election is taken as an indication of the growing realisation of what the war means by the working classes.

Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is *no entrance fee*, and the subscriptions of members elected between now and the close of the year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1917. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

Particulars regarding membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

## SOME NATURE NOTES.

THE Hawaii Experiment Station is making attempts to secure a strain of *papaya* with self-fertilising flowers, thus doing away with the necessity for male trees. The results hitherto obtained are most promising, and complete success in two or three generations is promised. Of the second generation of breeding, 454 trees examined showed 95½ per cent. with perfect flowers for fruit-bearing. One most interesting experiment was that of cutting down two male trees two feet from the ground. When the new branches came out it was found that the sex had changed, and that regular, perfect flowers, each bearing fruit, were developed.

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A NEW industry, mango preserving, has recently been started in Manila, and promises to develop considerable proportions. According to the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts, for years efforts have been made in the Philippines in this direction. The flavour of the mango is extremely delicate, and difficult to preserve, but a satisfactory process of putting up the fruit in glass jars has been discovered. The preserved fruit is known as mango honey.

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THE Agricultural Board here has just distributed to farmers a leaflet on the subject of the value of soil analyses. The whole position of soil composition from biological, chemical and mechanical points of view is reviewed, and the inference left on the mind of the reader is that there is little to be gained from the analysis of soils. One remark is interesting from its novelty. It is stated that a plant requires more phosphates in a heavy clay than in a sandy soil, and more potash in a sandy soil than in a rich loam.

\* \* \*

LEAVING the views of the Board of Agriculture out of the question, the true value of chemical and mechanical soil analysis appears to be this. It shows if a soil is bad, and points the way to remedying the defects. It does not, however, declare a soil necessarily fertile if it contains a sufficiency of the known requisite food elements or the essential mechanical composition. It forms, in fact, a basis for future operations, and paves the way for the production of fertility by other than chemical means if necessary.

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ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts, German manufacturers have been successful in their endeavours to produce a substitute for jute and hemp for industrial purposes. The plant used is *Epilobium hirsutum*, or rough-haired willow rose. These grow wild, have stems about five feet in length, and produce a fine fibre. It is anticipated that by attentive cultivation a fibre quite equal to jute will be obtained. If this be so, it will help considerably to solve the jute question in connection with sugar bags.

## THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

A further list of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their Country will be published in next CIRCULAR. The following casualties are announced.

## Died of Wounds.

2nd, LIEUTENANT MELVILLE ADRIAN CECIL HUNTER, of the 4th Batt. Highland Light Infantry, has, we regret to state, died of wounds received at the Dardanelles. The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hunter, of Netherdale, Gartmore, Perthshire, N.B. Lieutenant Hunter was only 21 years of age. He received a commission in the 4th Battalion H.L.I. on September 8th, 1914, and left early in August last for the Dardanelles, taking out a draft of the 1st Munsters. On arriving there he was attached to the 7th Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment, and he was serving with them when he received the wounds from which he died.

## Wounded.

Lieut. F. R. C. Cobbold, machine gun officer of the 9th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, eldest son of Mr. H. M. C. Cobbold, late of Felixstowe, St. Andrew's, Jamaica, was wounded before Hill 70 on September 25th. He was admitted to the officers' hospital at No. 10, Carlton House Terrace, S.W., and has just been discharged as cured.

2nd Lieut. O. S. Melhado (Jamaica) of the 11th Yorkshire Regiment, and attached to the 6th, has been wounded at the Dardanelles.

## OBITUARY.

MR. CHARLES R. GURNEY HOARE.

We regret to state that Mr. Charles R. Gurney Hoare died at 27, Eccleston Square, on November 9th, 1915.

Mr. Hoare, who was elected a Director of the Colonial Bank in 1883, succeeded his cousin, Mr. E. Brodie Hoare, as Chairman in 1912. He was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Hoare, Wilson and Co., proprietors of Symon's Wharf.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

## Sugar Ration.

On November 13th, in reply to Mr. Shirley Bann, who asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office if the sugar used by the troops stationed in England was supplied direct by the Sugar Commission or purchased from contractors, Mr. Forster replied the sugar forming part of the ration is supplied by contractors on the basis of prices fixed by the Sugar Commission.

## The Wealth of the Empire.

Mr. McKenna, replying to Mr. W. Thorne on November 23rd, said it had been computed by statisticians that the capital wealth of the British Empire amounted, roughly, to £26,000,000,000, and its yearly income to £4,000,000,000.

## Gifts from the Colonies.

Replying to Sir E. Cornwall on November 23rd, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Steel-Maitland) said that it was proposed at the end of the War to issue a comprehensive list of all the gifts received from His Majesty's Oversea Dominions. In the meantime particulars of gifts received would continue to be published through the medium of the Press Bureau.

## THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Fairly heavy mails from the West Indies via Trinidad and New York were delivered in London on November 23rd and 29th. The letters were twenty-five days in transit from British Guiana, and over a month from some of the islands. But in these troublous days merchants consider themselves fortunate to get their letters at all. The suspension of the regular mail service was still a sore subject in most of the colonies when the mail left, and the islands favouring the cancellation of the Intercolonial mail contract, if it can be effected honourably, were in a majority, and were supported by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. The usual extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents are given below.

### ANTIGUA—General rains followed by drought.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, OCTOBER 25th.—We had a welcome rain of about 1½ inches which fell pretty generally on October 20th. None has, however, fallen since, and we are getting dry again. Upwards of £150 was collected on Red Cross Day. I regret to have to record the death of Mrs. Walter, for many years proprietress of the Globe Hotel. She was quite an Antigua "landmark" and will be mourned for by many friends.

### BARBADOS—The local recruiting campaign.

SIR F. J. CLARKE, NOVEMBER 4th, 1915.—The Legislature has granted the money for another half-company for the West Indian Contingent, and the Recruiting Committee hope by an active recruiting campaign to get all the men that are required. A Committee has been formed with the object of collecting funds to send over men for enlistment in British regiments. This will not clash with recruiting for the West Indian Contingent. The weather continues good, and the crop prospects for next year are cheering.

### BRITISH GUIANA—The Intercolonial Service.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, OCTOBER 29th.—The weather has continued hot and dry. We had some showers in town this morning, but these were not of any duration. There was a fire in the Bourda District early yesterday morning. Arrangements have been made for a general collection on 1st November in aid of the Red Cross Fund, and over \$4,000 has already been subscribed.

I regret to report the death of Mr. W. M. Payne, Barrister-at-Law, in the 18th inst., and Warrant Officer J. C. Farmery, of the Wireless Station, on the 17th inst. Mr. Farmery was buried with military honours. The death of Mr. Arthur Braud in London on the 27th ult. was learned with much regret.

The Chamber of Commerce met on the 20th inst., and supported the proposed abandonment of the Intercolonial Service in the absence of a fortnightly connection with an Atlantic Service at Trinidad or Barbados.

A Recruiting Campaign was carried out by the local forces accompanied by the band on the 25th inst. A meeting of the Committee will be held on the 1st prox. at which the Inspector of Districts (Mr. Shankland) and some of the East Coast farmers will be present.

### DOMINICA—The late Edgar Ashton Agar.

MR. J. HILTON STERER, of the *Dominica Guardian* writes, under date November 1st: It is my painful duty to chronicle the death of your highly respected local correspondent, Mr. Edgar Ashton Agar, which took place in Roseau, on the afternoon of Friday the 22nd ult., after a short illness of only about three weeks' duration. He had the best medical skill which the island could afford, Drs. Nicholls and Allport being his physicians, and his wife

was devotion itself. His death is deeply regretted by a large section of the community. The funeral took place at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, and was attended by many prominent members of the community, among them being His Excellency the Governor, Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., who is on a visit to the island, His Honour A. W. Mahaffy, Esq., Administrator, members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and of the Civil Service, the Municipality, the Press, the Bar, officials of the Colonial Bank and of the Royal Bank of Canada, and representatives of the Department of Agriculture, while the Agricultural and Commercial bodies were well represented, planters (residents and natives) coming from their distant homes to join his many friends in Roseau, etc., in paying their final respect to one who in life won the goodwill and esteem of everybody in the community by his urbanity and general friendliness.

Mr. Agar was a Londoner, and was born on the 20th February, 1873. He was educated at Winchester College, and came to Dominica, when quite a young man, in 1892, from which time he always identified himself with all that affected the interest and well-being of his adopted home. He was, so to speak, the pioneer of the new class of Englishmen who have lately settled in Dominica and are striving by every means in their power to push their own interests and that of the country through. Having settled on a little property called *La Haul*, situated not far from Roseau, he gave himself up to hard work to improve this desirable little holding, which he had made his hobby. But he also gave his services freely to the country in a general way, and identified himself with every move started for the benefit of the inhabitants. Among other things he was prominent in establishing the present Dominica Agricultural Society, of which he was the Secretary for some time, and also the Planters' Association. He was a member of the Road Board and a Commissioner of Taxes, Secretary to the Local Exhibition Committee, and a member and Secretary of the Dominica Church Council. He always took an active part in the local exhibitions, and in the field of sport and at public entertainments he could always be depended upon as a valued helper.

He was a member of the Legislative Council for a short period. In politics he was a very liberal-minded man, and one who could stand his own opinion, but nevertheless he always respected the opinion of others, being very ready to take and give, as circumstances permitted.

In private life Mr. Agar was an out-and-out gentleman, and a most worthy citizen. In 1906 he married the eldest daughter of the late Mr. Ogilvy, a prominent planter here, and there are five children by the marriage. He was a staunch friend and considerate employer—a man whose charity was never sought in vain. His death is a sad loss to the community—one that will not easily be replaced. For his wife and other relatives, both here and in England, the greatest sympathy is felt in Dominica.

### NEVIS—Splendid planters' weather.

MR. B. WILLIAMS, OCTOBER 28th.—The weather for the past four weeks has been very good from a planter's point of view, and the whole island looks beautifully green, the canes everywhere coming up to expectations. The members of the first contingent from Nevis have left. The Hon. C. C. Greaves with his usual tact and ability did all that was necessary to give them a good send off. The men include Frederick W. Christopher (Head Master, St. James' Government Elementary School), William Jeffers (second master, St. George's Government Boys' School), Dinzey N. Henville (grocer's clerk), Harrington Brown (painter), Edward Mills (overseer), and Samuel Morton (carpenter).

### ST. LUCIA—Mr. Gideon Murray's Financial Proposals.

During the temporary absence of Sir George Haddon-Smith in Trinidad, the Hon. C. Gideon Murray administered the Government of the Windward Islands. In a memorandum to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council he urges the adoption of steps to place the Finance of the Colony on a stable basis so that the island may take a more prominent position in the era of progress and development which may be expected after the war. He



expressed surprise at the large area of undeveloped, though fertile, land, which he saw during a ride round the whole Colony. Among the needs were a good driving road between Dennery and Castries, and he estimated that a capital expenditure of £40,000 would meet the road requirements of St. Lucia for many years to come. He advocated the institution of a system of agricultural credit on easy terms. He felt that the time was not yet ripe for a land tax, and he was satisfied that there should be no increase in the coal tax at present, in view of the competition in neighbouring islands, notably St. Thomas and Porto Rico. He advocates a gradual reduction of the permanent expenditure reaching £1,570. The repeal of the duty on empty boxes, the institution of rural house tax, the permanent imposition of export duties on certain graduated scales, the institution of death duties, the revision of the scale of income tax. The appointment of an agricultural instructor and inspector, and agricultural credit societies, and the raising of a loan immediately of £25,000 at 5 per cent., repayable in 40 years, for the improvements of roads and for connecting Castries and Dennery by a good motor road.

#### ST. VINCENT—Motor boat for Leeward Coast.

MR. W. N. SANDS, OCTOBER 30th, 1915.—Fairly good weather has been experienced during the last fortnight. Cotton picking has been started, also the reaping of arrow-root. A minor industry giving remunerative returns just now is stock raising. Both large and small stock are realising remunerative prices in the intercolonial markets, and are likely to do so with the sugar and cacao industries in a flourishing condition.

The Hon. C. J. Simmouis has recently disposed of several of his estates to local planters. The estates sold cover Villa, Prospect, Brighton, Belvedere, Upper and Lower Diamond, Carapon, and Rivulet.

The advent of a privately owned motor-boat to ply for hire on the Leeward coast has already whetted our appetite for better things to come. This boat has already enabled many people who have hitherto fought shy of the discomforts of a canoe journey to visit the Leeward district for the first time.

Mr. A. G. Hazell, son of the late Mr. W. G. H. Hazell, was married on October 14th to Miss Mildred McIlraith Ince, daughter of Mr. James E. Ince, of Barbados, and step-sister of Miss Ince, Mistress of the St. Vincent Girls' High School, at St. Michael's Cathedral, Barbados. Hon. Dr. C. H. Durrant, Medical Officer of the Kingstown District, has been appointed Colonial Surgeon of St. Vincent.

#### TOBAGO—The March cacao crop suffering.

MR. G. DAVID HAIT, OCTOBER 29th.—The second cacao crop due in March suffers from too much rain causing the trees to throw out new leaves and run to wood instead of putting out young pods in abundance. Owing to the moisture and dampness the pods on which we rely for the second crop are turning black and rotten. Fortunately our crop is in before Trinidad's and consequently prices are remunerative. The tobacco crop to date is reported short owing to the sharp sun in May following so quickly on the heavy rains in April; local prices are excellent. Native grown vegetables are plentiful and cheap. The health of the island is satisfactory. The weather is cooler.

A case of books and a large barrel of guava jelly were shipped by the *Danube* to the Red Cross Society and another lot of guava jelly and other preserves await the *Magdalena* next month. As praedial larceny is completely eradicated in Grenada by judicious application of the "Cat," it is recommended that similar steps be taken here to give like results. Trial by jury in Scarborough will soon be of the past judging from the ease application for transfer of trials to Port of Spain are obtained on the ground the accused would not have fair and impartial trial in Tobago. Unfortunately the offenders are permitted to return here and continue their misdeeds without further molestation by the police, who are down-hearted. The "Bonanza" is completed, a large, handsome structure, quite an ornament to the commercial quarter. With drunkenness so prevalent in

the island now, owing to the low price at which rum is sold, the time has come for the people to be protected against the drink evil without delay. Mails despatched from London via New York on the 9th September, arrived in 41 days; by the *Salybia* on 27th September in 31, and by the *Oranian*, three days after, in 20. On Trafalgar Day commemorative postal stamps were sold at the Post Office for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund. Kenneth, eldest son of Mr. Robert S. Reid, of King's Bay, sailed by the *Danube*, with the best wishes of the community, to do his bit for King and Country. The consensus of opinion is that the time is ripe for the compiling of a register on similar lines to that of the United Kingdom to be followed immediately after by some form of compulsory military training. Our coastal steamer *Barina* is placed on the Demerara—Port of Spain route, and the *Belize* is performing the dual service.

## OUR LIBRARY.

**The Development and Properties of Raw Cotton.** By W. Lawrence Balls, M.A. (Cantab.). With sixteen full-page illustrations and twenty diagrams in the text. London, A. and C. Black, Ltd. Price 5s. nett (5½" × 7½", pp. 221 + x.). The author of this book was formerly Botanist to the Khedivial Agricultural Society of Cairo and to the Egyptian Government Agricultural Department. If there is one kind of cotton more than another which requires scientific cultivation it is Sea Island, which with the exception of Marie Galante, the kind that holds sway in Carriacou, is the only variety grown in the West Indies. It is important, therefore, that cotton planters in the West Indian Islands should keep *au fait* with the latest progress in the study of cotton from scientific stand-points. In this connection the work now under notice should prove of infinite value. The author, who has had wide experience of cotton growing in Egypt discusses the developments of cotton lint and the matter of the improvement of the plant on which it is borne. His text is liberally illustrated by diagrams and photographs which are extremely interesting even to the layman. To the agriculturist, who has embarked upon cotton cultivation the book should be indispensable. In its compilation the author has had recourse to many authorities, whose views are thus given in a digestible form.

**The World's Cotton Crops.** By John A. Todd, B.L. With thirty-two page illustrations, also sixteen maps and diagrams. London, A. and C. Black, Ltd. (5½" × 7½", pp. 460 + xiii.). Price 10s. nett. Mr. Todd's book forms an admirable companion volume to that of Mr. Lawrence Balls' noticed above, and *vice versa*. While growing his cotton the planter has to consider the question of marketing it, and in this connection a full knowledge of the World's cotton crops and their destination is of no little interest. We are glad to find that the author devoted a fair number of pages to the cotton industry of the West Indies, besides several illustrations and a map showing the cotton growing areas in and about the Caribbean. The total Sea Island crop is relatively small, seldom exceeding 100,000 bales of 400 lbs. each. Its worst feature from the grower's point of view is the extraordinary speculative character of the market, and the extreme fluctuations of the price which it seems impossible to estimate six months ahead to within 50 per cent. The high price restricts the use of the cotton to trades where the fineness of the cotton is essential, but unless a very high price can be secured Sea Island cotton does not pay the growers, being a most troublesome and risky crop, requiring long experience and very special care. It is also very susceptible to storms. Mr. Todd sees in Egyptian cotton a formidable competitor, and he regards the position of the Sea Island industry not at all satisfactory—indeed some growers (in America) have frequently threatened to abandon it in favour of the ordinary Ameri-

can Upland. In America the boll weevil is even a greater danger than Egyptian competition, and Mr. Todd states that the fact must be faced that the American supply of Sea Island cotton may be very seriously curtailed within the next five years. Then will be the opportunity of the West Indies where, happily, the boll weevil is unknown. We can honestly recommend this interesting book to all connected with West Indian cotton industry, who will find in it words of comfort, of which some of them have of late been sadly in need.

Copies of the above books can be supplied by the West India Committee, price 5s. (or 5s. 5d. post free), and 10s. (or 10s. 6d. post free) respectively.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### The Demerara Railway.

Mr. R. A. Robertson, D.L., presiding at the half-yearly general meeting of the Demerara Railway, held on November 19th, referred to the statement in the Report that a settlement of the Parika Extension Construction Account had not yet been arrived at with the Government. The delay had been partly owing to the absence of the general manager in this country, and the board hoped, now that he had returned to the Colony, a satisfactory adjustment might be shortly arrived at. The gross revenue amounted to £25,598, which was an increase over the corresponding half-year of £2,149, or 9 per cent. The gross expenditure was £21,002 which showed an increase of £2,898, or 16 per cent., so that upon the balance the gross revenue showed a decrease of £749, or 14 per cent. The number of passengers on the East Coast Railways showed an increase of something over 2 per cent. The West Coast passenger traffic showed the large increase of over 37 per cent. in numbers, gained with the comparatively small increased mileage of 4,373 miles, or about 25 per cent., and the goods tonnage, over the whole system, showed a substantial increase of nearly 12 per cent., totalling to 3,000 tons. The increase in the receipts from passengers and goods on the West Coast Railway was almost entirely due to the additional traffic obtained by the extension to Parika and to the working arrangement with the Government steamers. The board thought that the position shown by the accounts must be regarded as satisfactory when the higher prices of fuel, labour, and material were taken into consideration. This increase in costs was a serious factor for the future and required increased consideration being given to the financial resources of the company. The directors recommended the payment of the half-year's dividend on the 4 per cent. Extension Preference Stock, also upon the 7 per cent. Preference Stock, and upon the 3½ per cent. Preferred Ordinary Stock, but regretted that they could not yet recommend any payment upon the Ordinary Stock. At such a critical period as this any opinion as to the future must necessarily be of a very speculative character, but it might be that one ultimate result of the war would be to the benefit of the Colony through its leading industry, and that new economic conditions would give rise to increased cultivation and development, which in due course would be reflected in the general good of the community. In the meantime the company was up against a period of strain until, at all events, the war was over. In the half-year under review their expenditure, notwithstanding the rise in the cost of material, had been kept down because of careful watching, but there was a limit to what this watchfulness would accomplish, and since the current half-year commenced they had been faced with a continuous increase in costs which was without record. Resolutions adopting the Report and Accounts and approving the Dividends were duly passed.

In the summary of the report in last issue the tonnage of goods on the Berbice Railway for 1914 should have read 3,704. The amount due to the Government on account of the Parika Extension was £51 10s. 4d., and the withdrawal referred to was "from" and not "for" the renewal fund.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE** remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. The new War Loan is quoted at 97½, and the old at 90½. The removal of the minimum prices from British Funds, foreign Government Bonds and a few other securities by order of the Treasury on November 23rd was followed by a sharp fall in Consols from 65 to 57½. This was followed by a steady recovery, and to-day's quotation is 59½.

**SUGAR**—The sugar markets of the United Kingdom have pursued their usual even course under the guidance of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. In our last, reference was made to the announcement by the Commission that under special conditions involving extra cost to the distributors the regulations as to retail prices might be departed from to meet the occasion. In this connection an incident has occurred which would appear to call for an explanation. A Liverpool firm of refiners, who have invariably worked up cane sugars, have on that account for years supplied a large London retailing firm with cube sugar. The latter, owing to the heavy freight charge from the refinery, have been compelled to retail the sugar at a price slightly over the official one. This having come to the notice of the Commission, the firm of refiners concerned were directed by the Commission not to send their sugar to London, but to distribute it in their immediate vicinity. As all the refiners' sugars are now from cane sources, this was quite in the interest of the consumers. But it happened that about the same time a Sheffield house which deals with a London refining firm, who refined beet sugar before the War, was allowed by the Commission to charge an extra price for the London made sugar, although Sheffield is much nearer Liverpool than London.

Mr. Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, has recently been interviewed on the subject of our food supplies. On the subject of sugar, Mr. Runciman stated that the Government had to take over the matter of our sugar supplies on the outbreak of War on account of the stoppage of the supplies from the enemy countries; and that "it was only by immediate Government action that we were able to buy sugar for this country in every other part of the world, sugar which would have otherwise gone elsewhere, and left us almost entirely without imports." Plausible though this statement is, it will not bear the test of criticism. Immediately after the Government had concluded the purchase of six months' supplies, and run up the world's price to a high figure, the price of the world's sugar dropped to a point but slightly above the low pre-war price, showing that there was plenty of sugar to go round without the enemy supplies. Had the Government been rightly advised, they would have recognised the fact that no Government control was necessary, and that sugar would have come here in a natural course to fill the gap caused by the withdrawal of the German and Austrian sugar from the market.

The weather in Cuba continues favourable for growth, and a 3,000,000 ton crop is assured. The juice, owing to the prolonged growth of the canes, due to the continuance of the rains, will not be favourable to manufacturing operations, if the crop starts at the usual time. It is, however, unlikely that the factories will delay operations on this account in view of the comparatively high prices that will obtain for the first new crop sugars.

The *Indian Trade Journal* gives the figures for the British Indian crop about to commence as being 2,400,000 tons from 2,415,000 acres, the latter 5 per cent. more than last year. When the Indian Government take the matter in hand on a business footing, there should be no difficulty in increasing the return from the same acreage by 50 per cent., which would do away with the necessity for the present imports. From the same origin we gather that the imports into India of sugar for the six months ending September 3rd was 237,207 tons, as against 214,078 tons for the corresponding period of last year; 9 cwts. of this sugar came from Germany.]

Figures for the 1914-15 Argentine crop are now to hand. They show that 320,000 tons were made, and that the consumption amounted to 253,603 tons, 123,009 tons of which was refined sugar, and 130,524 tons unrefined, in all 253,533 tons.

According to the *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*, Switzerland consumed 134,557 tons of sugar last year, all imported. The same organ states that in 1914-15 the exports from Holland amounted to 41,603 tons of raw and 103,303 tons of refined, in all 144,906 tons, as against 171,206 tons in 1913-14. In 1914-15 20,603 tons were imported, as against 117,092 in 1913-14.

As reported by Reuter, the Commonwealth Government of Australia has arranged with the Queensland Government to take over the next Queensland crop of 96° sugar at £18 per ton, practically a pre-war figure.

In the absence of supplies, there has not been much doing in the London grocery crystallized market during the fortnight. On the 19th only 70 tons were offered, which were mostly sold at previous rates. Demerara fetched 30s. 9d., and St. Kitts 29s. 6d. Demerara syrups were sold at 26s. 6d. to 27s., and the Barbados muscovado was bought in.

On the 26th, 380 tons were offered, which met with a good demand for crystallized at previous rates. Trinidad sold at 30s. to 30s. 3d., Demerara at 31s. 9d. to 32s. Syrups and Muscovado fetched full prices. Demerara syrups sold at 26s. 6d. to 27s. 9d.; Jamaica and Barbados muscovado at 27s.

At auction to-day 600 tons of crystallized grocery met with slow demand, and only a small part sold, at prices ruling in buyers' favour. 3,251 bags Demerara were bought in; 484 bags Trinidad were sold at 29s. 6d. Syrups and muscovado fetched full rates, Demerara syrups selling at 27s. 3d. to 27s. 6d., and Barbados muscovado at 27s.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to November 20th are:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Imports ...	50,822	28,577	35,991	25,310	33,674	Tons
Deliveries ...	44,243	35,196	26,729	27,501	33,754	..
Stock (Nov. 20)	12,588	6,333	11,102	2,000	4,280	..

There has been some fluctuation in prices on the New York market since the date of last Summary, and the \$5.14 quotation for duty paid 96°s has fallen to \$5.02, at which figure it stood yesterday. Granulated has remained steady at \$5.90.

The position of sugar in this market is a sensitive one at the present moment. Some of the remainder of the Cuban old crop is earmarked for Europe, and at the same time the refiners' stocks have been somewhat depleted from the same cause. There is also a shortage in the Louisiana crop. If, therefore, there is a delay in the opening of the Cuban new crop from want of condition of the canes or adverse weather, there will be some tightness in the United States market pending the arrival of new crop Cuban supplies.

**RUM** is firm and unchanged. Demerara may be quoted at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 5d. per proof gallon. As regards Jamaica, in spite of the fair supply, prices have been maintained at 4s. 4d. for common to 5s. 4d. for first quality per gallon.

It will be recalled that under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, which came into force on May 19th last, no spirits may pass into consumption which have not been warehoused for less than three years. Owing to the shortage of stocks an exception was made in favour of rum for one year, importers being permitted to deliver for consumption rum warehoused for nine months, of which three months are counted for the voyage. As rum imported after November 19th cannot attain the age of nine months before the expiration of the year of grace has elapsed, on May 19th, 1916, the concession has now lapsed as far as fresh importations are concerned, and rum now being landed is technically subject to three years compulsory bonding. The West India Committee, however, have every reason to believe that the concession to rum will be extended, and shippers in the West Indies need feel no anxiety whatever with respect to the immediate future.

The stocks in London on November 20th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Jamaica ...	6,174	7,695	6,857	8,051	9,590	Pans
Demerara ...	4,835	6,077	5,872	5,874	3,985	..
Total, all kinds	22,572	20,394	20,175	22,440	22,024	..

**CACAO**—There have been no auction sales since the date of our last Summary until to-day, but at private sales prices have been maintained, with an upward tendency. At to-day's auction sales the demand was slow. 1,290 bags Trinidad were part sold at 95s., an advance of 1s. A good part of 1,272 bags Grenada were sold at 82s. to 92s. 6d., prices for this variety, however, being generally 2s. lower. St. Lucia sold at 84s. 6d. to 91s. 6d.; Dominica at 86s. to 87s. 6d.

The stocks in London on November 20th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	
Trinidad ...	9,555	8,140	11,218	6,540	5,777	Bags
Grenada ...	1,706	3,742	2,316	1,187	6,229	..
Total, all kinds	106,988	77,399	73,652	76,691	91,384	..

**COTTON**—Prices of Sea Island remain steady, but there is practically little or no stock offering. Since our last report the sales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been confined to about 120 bales St. Vincent, chiefly at 18d., with some superfine at 20d. to 28d.

The United States official report gives the quantity of Sea Island cotton produced in the Southern States as 78,857 bales for crop 1914-15, as against 85,544 bales for crop 1913-14, 68,080 bales for crop 1912-13, and 122,744 bales for crop 1911-12. The exports of West Indian cotton to the United Kingdom have been for the year 4,712 bales up to the 25th November.

**ARROWROOT**—Very few sales reported. Quotations, 2½d. to 4½d.

**SPOICES**—At last auction sales 311 packages of West Indian **NUMEGS** have been sold. Quotations: 100/80's, 4½d. to 8½d.; 120/100's, 4½d. to 4½d.; 140/120's, 4½d. to 4½d. West Indian **MACE** is slightly dearer. Values, good to fine, 2s. to 2s. 4d.; medium red to good, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; blood red to medium red, 1s. to 1s. 5d.; broken 8d. to 11d. **PIMENTO** steady; value 2½d. The market for Jamaica **GINGER** is firm, with a fair demand. Values, 58s. to 70s. for common to middling; 77s. to 80s. for good to choice bright.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—**Lime Oil**: Distilled has been lower with small business at 7s. There is nothing doing in hand-pressed. **Lime Juice**. No demand for raw, and heavy supplies. The nominal value may be taken as 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Buyers of **Concentrated** have temporarily withdrawn from the market owing to absence of demand for citric acid. Supplies are heavy.

**RUBBER**—The market during the fortnight has been very strong, due mainly to demand from the United States. At one time fine plantation reached 3s. 7½d. for spot sales, but demand at this figure slackened, and after some fluctuations the value is now 3s. 2d., with smoked sheet at 3s. 1½d. The value of other kinds has increased in sympathy with plantation. Fine hard Para may be quoted at 2s. 11d., soft at 2s. 9d. The value of Castilloa sheet is 2s. 8d., with scrap at 2s. 1½d.

**BALATA**—There has been a fair business doing. For Venezuelan block, buyers' price is 1s. 11d. landed terms, with sellers at 1s. 11½d., and c.i.f. sellers at 1s. 10½d. Sheet has been steady. Buyers' spot price 2s. 4½d., sellers' 2s. 6d. landed terms, with 2s. 5d. c.i.f. for sellers.

**HONEY**—No auctions have been held since the date of last summary. The market is quiet, but firm.

**COPRA**—The market for all descriptions has been quietly steady during the fortnight, and is firm at date of report. Sales of West Indian have been made at £31 10s. and £31 15s. per ton.

**COCO-NUT OIL**—Market is very firm owing to American demands. Ceylon spot is quoted at £51 to £53, Ceylon spot £51 for hogsheads and £49 for pipes.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—American 9½d.; water white 10½d.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Mr. B. Bonson	*Mr. P. L. Guppy	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
Mr. A. Campbell	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. F. B. B. Shand
Dr. C. F. Castor	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Caibcart	Mr. A. E. Morrish	and
Mr. Arthur E. Clodd	Mr. T. W. O'Neal	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Hon. H. Ferguson	Mr. A. E. Perkins	

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 Mr. T. L. Dunsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 3-5, Rood Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Ardath, Esher, Surrey.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, J., Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
 Mr. S. H. Taylor, Regent Palace Hotel, Regent Street, W.  
 Mr. J. B. Wauh, Baybrook, West Hill Road, Bournemouth.

**STEAMER SAILINGS.**

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland, Canada and the United States for the next few weeks.

**FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

Date.	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 2	"Direct" Line	Country	London	D.
Dec. 4	"Direct" Line	Spheroid	London	K. M. N.
Dec. 9	"Direct" Line	Albanian	Liverpool	A. E.
Dec. 13	Elders & Fyffes	Cavina	Atonmouth	D.
Dec. 15	Booker Line	Imataka	Liverpool	B.
Dec. 20	"Direct" Line	Crown of Leon	Glasgow	A. B. E.
Dec. 24	"Direct" Line	Sylvanian	Liverpool	A. E.
Dec. 27	Elders & Fyffes	Camito	Bristol	D.

**FROM HOLLAND**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 17	Royal Dutch		Amsterdam	B. E.

**FROM CANADA**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 17	R.M.S.P.Co.	Coronet	Halifax, N.S.	
Dec. 31		Chaleur		

**FROM THE UNITED STATES.**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 7	Trinidad Line.	Mayaro	New York	L. E. B.
" 21	"	Moravia	"	"

A. Barbados; B. British Guiana; C. British Honduras; D. Jamaica; E. Trinidad; F. Antigua; G. St. Kitts; H. Nevis; I. Montserrat; K. Dominica; L. Grenada; M. St. Lucia; N. St. Vincent.

The folders of the principal shipping companies whose steamers call at West Indian ports can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gayler): Nov. 29th, "Fine rains generally throughout the island."  
**British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.): Nov. 17th, "Fine rains Essequibo, East Coast, less Berbice." Nov. 18th, "Light showers"; (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), Nov. 23rd: Demerara, "Weather favourable, too dry Berbice except Skeldon." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Nov. 26th, "Weather dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.): Week ended Nov. 3rd, Port Antonio, "Rainy"; Kingston, Oct. 28th to Nov. 2nd "Rainy," 3rd fine.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Dist. dead	Latest Quotations.	Price Nov. 29
4	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44 ... ..	95
3 1/2	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1915-42 ... ..	86 1/2
4	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1915 ... ..	94
3	Grenada ... 3 % Redeemable 1917-42 ... ..	74 1/2
4	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1914 ... ..	94 1/2
3 1/2	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49 ... ..	97 1/2
3 1/2	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1922-44 ... ..	83 1/2
3	St. Lucia ... 3 % Redeemable 1919-44 ... ..	75
3	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1917-42 ... ..	95
3	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44 ... ..	94
6	The Colonial Bank ... ..	74
6	The Colonial Bank ... ..	5 1/2
7	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ... ..	96
7	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ... ..	85 1/2
4 1/2	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures ... ..	88 1/2
5	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures ... ..	90
4 1/2	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures ... ..	94 1/2
6	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ... ..	12 1/2
6	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ... ..	97 1/2
7	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. ... ..	6 1/2
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (2 1/2 shares) ... ..	3 1/2
—	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid) ... ..	2
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ... ..	27-30
7	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref. ... ..	100-105
4	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Es. Pref. ... ..	70-75
4	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures ... ..	72-75
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ... ..	21 1/2
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	7 1/2
6 1/2	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd ... ..	5 1/2
5	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ... ..	9 1/2

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Sept. 31, 1915	1914
Sugar	66,907	58,535 Tons.	13,586	13,610 Tons
Molasses		83,197 Galls.		
Rum	3,109,574	2,172,793 Pt. Gls.	1,069,883	989,246 Galls.
Molascuit. Ac.	1,603	1,469 Tons.		
Cacao	59,174	41,937 Tons.	7,031,176	6,841,968 lbs.
Coffee	172,320	338,767	5,352,560	5,790,756
Coco-nuts	1,565,375	1,660,611 No.	19,415,554	20,986,140 No.
Oranges			5,085,750	3,017,150
Bananas			7,074,258	13,963,542 Stems.
Cotton			33,249	32,607 lbs.
Pimento			43,290	64,918 Cwts.
Ginger			10,153	16,799
Honey			112,595	141,948 Galls.
Dyewoods			33,124	46,079 Tons.
Gold	44,962	51,053 Ozs.		
Diamonds	4,612	9,317 Carats.		
Rice	15,894,658	10,849,435 lbs.		
Balata	1,351,895	885,392		
Rubber	2,249	815		
Timber	104,951	175,130 cub. ft.		
Lumber	137,901	241,629 ft.		
Lime (citrate of)	12,500	7,204 lbs.		

	Trinidad.		St. Vincent.	
	Jan. 1 to Oct. 30, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1915	1914
Sugar	48,417	45,602 Tons.	31,137	31,708 Tons
Molasses	4,713	3,415 Puns.	51,355	99,974 Puns.
Rum		1,037		
Coco-nuts	9,692,479	12,178,345 No.		
Asphalt	93,908	117,142 Tons.		
Maniak	496			
Bitters	18,171	14,447 Cases.		
Coffee	11,020	13,440 lbs.		
Crude Petrol				
Cacao	43,339,800	61,157,200 lbs.		
Cotton				
Seed				
Copra	19,031	9,848 Bags.		
Synca				
Kola				

	Barbados.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1915	1914	Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 1914/15	1913/14
Sugar			11,189,880	11,012,490 lbs.
Molasses			1,182	1,172 Bales
Rum			1,023	3,554 Bags
Coco-nuts			359	277
Crude Petrol			1,410,300	1,372,940 lbs.
Cacao			6,310	5,320

	Dominica.	
	Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1915.	1914.
Cacao	595,184	516,768 lbs.
Limes	55,272	160,647 galls.
Lime Juice, raw	10,911	40,575
" concentrated	20,145	2,762 cwt.
" Citrate of	540	1,956 galls.
Lime Oil, distilled	944	663
" equalled	255	69,911 feet.
Hardwood	25,231	2,302 stems.
Bananas	2,039	391,484 No.
Coco-nuts	598,656	

# West India Committee Circular.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

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December 13th, 1915.

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LOGWOOD INDUSTRY.

**Y**IELDING to pressure put upon them by the Dundee Chamber of Commerce, which invoked and received the support of several North Country Chambers, the Government have prohibited the export of logwood from the British West Indies. In a memorandum which they sent to the Board of Trade they pointed out that the position of the supply of logwood extract and its allied preparations—logwood powder and hematine crystals—was a cause of much anxiety to the dyeing trade, and seriously affected the production of textiles for the use of Government departments and the clothing trade of the country generally. They went on to state: "The supply of logwood products is largely in the hands of the British Dyewood and Chemical Company (representing the interests of the United Dyewood Company of America with control of works in Jamaica), the West Indies Chemical Works, Limited, Jamaica, and some French firms. These firms are syndicated to control the manufacture, supply, and price of logwood products. The resulting position, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, is very serious. Not only have prices advanced about 300 per cent., but the supply is entirely unequal to the demand, and while logwood produced in the West Indies is being exported steadily to America, the home markets are practically at starvation point, and important British manufacturing firms are unable to secure offers of wood at any price.

The prospects are that a crisis will be reached early next year, if not sooner." In conclusion, the Chamber urged the Government to take such steps to control the export of logwood, "at any rate from the West Indies," as would ensure the needs of the British trade being adequately met.

In the main the statement of the Chamber is correct, though the combination of extract manufacturers referred to by no means "control" the trade, especially in the United States. Moreover, the Chambers omitted to state that one reason why logwood tended towards America was because the dye trade in this country had little or no use for it while they could obtain cheap and plentiful supplies of aniline dyes from Germany, although it was notorious that aniline dyes were inferior for black goods to those made from logwood. It should also be understood that the rate of freights between Jamaica and the United States, both by steamers and sailing ships, have advanced far less than those between the West Indies and this country have done. Germany being now closed to them as a source of dyes the dyeware trades in this country turn to the British colonies. The patriotic North Country view of the situation was summed up by a member of the Bradford Chamber, who naively said that "they had to depend on logwood because they could not get other things"—which reminds us of the Lancashire prayer which runs

"God bless me and my wife,  
My son Jack and his wife,  
Us four and no more."

Through its past dependence upon Germany the dyeware trade finds itself in a decidedly awkward predicament. The Americans are buying up all the logwood they can lay their hands on, and, in spite of the very high prices which they are paying for it, are able to send dyed goods such as stockings and cloth to compete with our manufactured goods. That something would have to be done to remedy this state of affairs was obvious, but it will require all the tact of the Colonial Office and Board of Trade to avoid unpleasantness. The rise in the price of logwood is perfectly legitimate, being due to the supply not being equal to the demand, and what America can afford to pay the Lancashire and Yorkshire dyers should also pay if they want the dye. Contracts with America will have to be considered, and if these, through *force majeure*, have to be suspended, the logwood cutters will properly resent any suggestion that they should accept a lower price than that obtainable in open competition in the American market. It is assumed that there will be no interference with contracts for delivery of logwood to France, but further particulars regarding the Government's intentions should soon be available.

## THE RESOURCES OF BRITISH GUIANA.

THE subject of the development of the hinterland of British Guiana has attracted a good deal of attention from time to time, and especially as the result of SIR WALTER ECERTON'S proposals as regards the construction of a railway to the Brazilian frontier. The occurrence of the war, however, necessarily turned attention away from this important subject, and the twenty-sixth annual Report of the Institute of Mines and Forests, just to hand, reminds us of the fact that the question of the development of the potentialities of the Colony will have to be settled when hostilities are over. The Report covers the period from the 1st of July, 1914, to the 30th June, 1915, and deals with the work done in connection with the hinterland industries during that period. As regards the principal industry which comes under the purview of the Institute—gold—it is stated that no discovery of great richness has been made during the twelve months under notice, but that good returns are being obtained in different localities. Notwithstanding this, the amount of gold yielded shows a falling off on the previous year's figures, partly attributable to the enhanced cost of provisions owing to the war and the high additional war insurance risk. As the result of these causes many of the "pork-knockers," the casual, irresponsible, wandering miners, have withdrawn from the industry. The Caburi district is spoken of as having a good future, good quartz outcrops of great richness being every now and then opened up. On the Cuyuni River district work has been resumed on the Oko Creek, at one time the scene of very handsome returns. The reported findings of rich gold lands on the Brazilian frontier have not materialized.

No extension of dredging operations in connection with gold is reported, but there is a likelihood of a third company operating. The two companies now at work gained 12,624 oz. of gold during the year. A satisfactory feature of the Report is the announcement that the Peters quartz mine was to be reopened at an early date. This mine, which has been closed for some time, had been subjected to a close examination by American miners, and this, and a trial crushing of the quartz, led to a bargain for the purchase of the property being closed. Elsewhere quartz mining has been suspended. The total amount of gold exported was 60,733 ozs. as against 77,435 ozs. in 1913-14, and 62,078 ozs. in 1912-13. The absence of a European market for diamonds as the result of the war has materially affected the diamond industry. In addition, the Government, in November last year, introduced new regulations in connection with this industry which, it is stated, have acted prejudicially on it. As the result the export of diamonds has materially diminished, 78,533 stones weighing 10,980 carats only having been shipped for the year, as against 94,871 stones weighing 12,506 carats in 1913-14. It is of interest to note that the total quantity of diamonds obtained in the Colony during fifteen years was 1,324,588 stones weighing 106,645 carats. In the

previous Report of the Institute great hopes were expressed of a bauxite industry being inaugurated in British Guiana. It is to be regretted that so far nothing has been done in this direction, and that the deposits of this valuable source of aluminium remain untouched. On the question of the possibility of pitch and oil deposits being found in the Colony the Report does not say much, beyond that there are reasons for believing in their existence. As the Government intend very shortly to bore an artesian well in the district supposed to be oil-bearing, some definite information on the subject should be then forthcoming. In connection with the rubber industry there is little to record. Where *Hevea* is being cultivated in the interior, experimental tappings promise well for the future of the industry. 2,341 lbs. of rubber were exported for the year, as against 1,154 lbs. for the previous year, and 237 lbs. for 1912-13. Owing to the war there was a considerable reduction in the exports of timber and lumber, which only amounted to 165,757 superficial feet of the latter, as against 346,650 cubic feet and 466,375 feet in the preceding years. A matter of great importance in connection with the Institute occurred during the year. One of the principal functions which it had, for the many years of its existence, carried out with great efficiency was the registration of the labourers employed in the various industries of the interior. This function, on the 1st of January, 1915, the Government took over.

It is impossible, on reading the Report, to avoid being struck with the small proportion of the natural riches of British Guiana which is now being developed. That these natural resources exist to a very great extent, no one reading the Report can fail to see, and it seems almost incredible that such natural wealth of mine and forest has not been more drawn upon in the past. When the war is over, the vast energies now absorbed in its prosecution will have to be devoted to other ends, and what could be more fitting than that one of these should be the development of British Guiana. The whole sugar supply of the United Kingdom can be obtained from the "Magnificent Province," while gold, diamonds, timber of all descriptions, besides other valuable products are there to an extent not yet realisable. The motto of the Colony is "*Danus petinusque vicissim.*" We look forward to the time when the Imperial sentiment of this motto will become a solid commercial proposition, in which fair treatment in the mother country for the produce of the Colony will go with the introduction of capital and labour from Imperial sources. It is only thus that the development of British Guiana will become an accomplished fact.

It is a matter for serious consideration whether the Government should not take steps to regulate freights, which are getting beyond all bounds. It may be said that they are following the normal law of supply and demand, but if that law can be suspended with regard to produce, as it has been in

the case of sugar, and still more recently, logwood, it is difficult to see why it should not also be suspended with respect to shipping. The West Indies are not alone in suffering from these high freight rates and as instances of what is happening elsewhere it may be mentioned that coal from Cardiff to the Mediterranean, which in 1913 was carried for about 7s. per ton, has now reached 40s. Again, wheat from North America, which was carried to the United Kingdom in 1913 at from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per quarter or about 12s. 6d. per ton, now costs 13s. 3d. per quarter, or about 65s. per ton. To give one more instance, wheat which was brought here from the Argentine in 1913 for 15s. to 25s. a ton and even as low as 11s., now fetches from 60s. to 70s. a ton.

### THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on December 9th. The members also present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy Chairman; Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The Secretary reported that the total membership of the West India Committee was 1,540, and that His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., and Mr. R. M. Otway (Grenada) had taken up life membership. The following were admitted members:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Dr. J. H. Cooke, B.A., M.B. (Antigua)	† Hon. J. Freeland Foote. † Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. A. J. White (British Guiana)	† Mr. C. A. Campbell. † Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. Thomas Flood (British Guiana)	† Mr. J. Wood Davis. † Mr. J. J. Rodrigues.

The position of rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act was under consideration, and it was decided to communicate with the Treasury on the subject in due course.

On the recommendation of the Sugar Sub-Committee it was decided to publish in pamphlet form correspondence with the sugar-growing colonies regarding the areas available for sugar production within the Empire, and to prepare a Memorandum stating the case for a preference on British sugar.

The Secretary was instructed to watch the situation with respect to the prohibition of logwood and logwood extracts from the British West Indies, and the despatch of a letter to the Colonial Office on the subject was authorised.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Sir William Trollope, Bart., for an eighteenth century embroidered picture.

### THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

#### Some Important Changes and Promotions.

Several important changes in the higher branches of the Colonial Civil Service were announced on December 1st. Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., relinquishes the duties of Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies which he has carried on since July, 1911, to become a Colonial Governor again, having been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon in succession to Sir Robert Chalmers, K.C.B., who returns to the Treasury as Secretary at the invitation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. At the Colonial Office Sir John Anderson is succeeded by Sir George Vandeleur Fiddes, K.C.M.G., C.B., the present Assistant Under-Secretary of State.

Sir Henry Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., who received a deservedly cordial welcome on his return to the Leeward Islands as Governor as recently as April, 1912, now leaves for Mauritius to relieve Major Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who, as already stated, has been appointed Governor of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., who now makes his first official acquaintance with the West Indies, succeeds Sir Hesketh Bell as Governor of the Leeward Islands. Born in 1858, Sir Edward was educated at Harrow, and went out to the Straits Settlements as a Cadet in 1880. After holding various magisterial and other appointments in Malacca and Penang, he was appointed British Resident of Selangor in October, 1901, only to be transferred to Malta as Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to the Government in the following year. Since 1911 he has been Governor of Sierra Leone. He was created C.M.G. in 1902 and K.C.V.O. five years later.

### THE INTERCOLONIAL MAIL SERVICE.

THE majority of the West Indian Colonies having favoured the discontinuance of the intercolonial steamer service, in view of the termination of the transatlantic mail contract by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Colonial Office have arranged with the Company for the suspension of the service. To obviate, as far as possible, any inconvenience which may result, it is hoped that arrangements may be made for the Canada-West Indies Mail Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to call fortnightly at St. Lucia on the voyage from and to Canada, and it is possible that calls at Montserrat, Dominica, and St. Vincent may also be provided for. In ordinary circumstances the contract for the intercolonial service would not have expired until August, 1917.

## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Passed by the Press Censor for publication.)

The situation with regard to Greece is by no means clear. The Entente Powers have made conditions, but the announcement that she had accepted them was premature. King Constantine is, apparently, convinced that the Allies' venture in the Balkans is a failure, though if their forces retreat into Greek territory he is prepared to give them his support if they will re-embark at Salonika. As he finds they have no intention of doing that, and may use coercive measures towards Greece, he talks of demobilising his army and awaiting events.

The ruling authorities in Germany have permitted a peace debate in the Reichstag. The official announcement of the fact was a curious mixture of cunning and naivete. The world was told that as Germany has been successful "along the whole line," though the Allied Powers are "blind" to it, she is ready to make peace on her own terms. But if her victory is complete, how is it that her enemies do not perceive it? The truth is that, being in possession of Belgium, Northern France, Courland, Poland, Galicia and Serbia, she knows that she has done her worst, and from now onwards the organisation and numbers of the Allies, backed by grim determination, will place them where she was at the start of the war, while she will be where they were. Her announcement is not made to their patriotic elements, but to their pro-German influences, which are ever working for her underground.

### In the Balkans.

The main Serbian Army, reduced in numbers to about 200,000 is safe in Albania, and, later on, may effect a junction with the Montenegrin forces, who are stubbornly resisting the enemy in the north, in spite of which he has entered Ipek. The losses of the Serbians in heavy guns and transport have been more serious in proportion to their losses in men, owing to the difficulty of dragging wheeled carriages over the mountain tracks. One of the many tasks of the Allies is, therefore, to provision and equip the war-worn and exiled Serbian Army for future offensive operations. In the meantime it will, with the help of Italy, improve the roads of Albania so as to bear heavy traffic. What the fighting inhabitants there think of the situation has not yet been recorded. But if they are favourable to the Serbians, as it appears they are, the Austro-German-Bulgarian forces are not likely to attempt a dash for the Adriatic, however strong their desire for such a venture.

The news that the French have retired from the triangle, which they occupied when it was expected that they could link up with the southern Serbian Army, need cause no anxiety. In the first place, now that Monastir has fallen, they could be out-flanked; in the second place, in order to defend our base at Salonika it is necessary that our front should be as short as possible. This will enable us to em-

ploy in the first line the minimum number of troops, while keeping a large force in reserve for manoeuvring and counter-attacks. In the gradual and orderly retreat the French have established a closer junction with the British, who, during the past month, have fortified carefully chosen positions of great strength. That is why they have been able to repulse the Bulgarian attempts to break through. So little news is published from the Balkans, however, that the most sensational reports are circulated as to German intentions, not only with regard to the Salonika sector, but also with regard to the near East. But, it may be asked, how is Germany to launch an offensive against Egypt and the flank of India when the Allied Fleets are in command of the outer seas and British submarines the inner waters up to Constantinople?

To have succeeded in saving Serbia about 300,000 troops should have been landed in Salonika long ago. As this was not done an advance on our part at this season of the year is out of the question. Our army on either side of the railway would have to depend for supplies upon horse and mule transport. Roads there are hardly any, and many of the tracks lie along gorges and cannot be widened. Even when we are able to advance, our progress must necessarily be slow in a country which—up to the Kosovo plain at any rate—is better suited to guerilla warfare than the complicated manoeuvres of modern armies.

### On the Eastern Front.

The report that Russia had landed a force at Varna was false. The Allies are not likely to repeat the Dardanelles adventure anywhere else. The Russians have, however, massed large bodies of troops towards the Danube and Roumanian frontier, an admirable move alike from the military and political point of view. In reply to it Germany is withdrawing part of her forces from the Serbian front, and sending them to the Bulgarian side of the Danube in the vicinity of Rustchuk. Another significant fact is Roumania's activity in closing her Danube ports, laying mines, and commandeering all vessels in her ports. The importance of this sector to Germany just now lies in its connection with the railway, which enables her to establish a safe line of communication with Turkey.

The capture of Ilkust, which destroyed a German salient has been followed up by a Russian success at Janopol on the Dvina, where the enemy tried to cross by means of a series of pontoons constructed from trees felled in the neighbouring forest. In the Riga region our Ally has pushed the Germans so far back that they have abandoned Mitau. In the south the conditions are equally favourable to the Russians.

### On the Italian Front.

One of the most striking results of Lord Kitchener's mission is Italy's signature to the pact of London, by which the Allies agree to consider no peace terms except in consultation with one another.

An Austrian submarine flotilla, which finds secure





THE GYMNAS TIC STAFF OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.



MONEAQUE TAVERN, JAMAICA, IN 1844.

An illustration from "Historic Jamaica."

bases in the numerous islands that ring the coast of Dalmatia, is hampering Italy's efforts to supply the Serbian Army in Albania. Several vessels have been sunk. In the meantime Gorizia, though a mass of ruins, still holds out, though its fall cannot much longer be delayed. Then Italy will indeed be a stage nearer Trieste, but the contour of the intervening country is such that every inch of the way will be stubbornly contested. So that unless she can turn Pola and Trieste by sea the War on this front is likely to be dogged as well as protracted.

### A Set-back on the Tigris.

The almost miraculous success of the Indian Expedition, which has been operating in Mesopotamia, was interrupted almost within sight of Baghdad. Apparently the Turks, whose resistance has been strenuous from the start, have received large reinforcements, and, though they were defeated with heavy loss at Ctesiphon, the British force was too small to hold the ground, much less to follow up its victory. It has, therefore, retired on Kut-el-Amara, where the Turks, despite an elaborate system of defences on the latest model, were defeated on September 28th. The retreat, after the prisoners and wounded had been removed, was carried out in good order under cover of a rearguard action, in which two river gun-boats were so badly damaged by Turkish artillery that they had to be abandoned.

Fortunately, Russia has been able to deal a counterstroke in Persia, where anarchy, fomented by German agents, has prevailed everywhere but in the capital, and in the district where a small body of Cossacks has kept order for so long. This force has defeated the revolting Persian gendarmerie, under Swedish officers, near Hamadan, and they, with their German friends, are in flight.

### Submarine and Aviation Exploits.

A British submarine in the Sea of Marmora sunk the Turkish destroyer *Jar Hissar*, a comparatively new ship, besides a supply steamer and sailing vessels. She also fired into and damaged a train on the Ismid railway, which runs from Scutari to Angora.

By courage and skilful manœuvring, Lieut. Viney and M. de Suicay, a French officer, destroyed an enemy submarine off Nicuport, by dropping bombs on it from their aeroplane. In recognition of this feat one has been awarded the V.C., the other, the Legion of Honour. The same day a British seaplane shot down a German Albatross seaplane, off Ostend. All along the French front encounters in the air are frequent.

The activity of German submarines seems to have been transferred from northern waters to the Mediterranean, where it is following the same course. More than thirty vessels, British, French and Italian, some of them transports, have been sunk during the past five weeks. The United States, which has, so far, received no satisfaction from the sinking of the *Lusitania* or *Ancona* is also a sufferer

One of the Standard Oil Company's tank steamers was attacked, and another one sunk.

### Progress in the Cameroons.

The hold of the Germans on this Colony is steadily weakening. Their centre of resistance is now to the comparatively elevated area about Yaunde. In the north their organised forces have been beaten and broken up into small parties of fugitives, who are being relentlessly pursued by the Allied columns. In the West General Dobell is advancing on Yaunde along the road and railway from Eden, and on the east and south-east the French contingent, which has accomplished a remarkable feat in African warfare by fighting their way across the German Cameroons from French Equatorial Africa. As they progress the Allied forces occupy the ports and centres of population, so that Germany is in a fair way to lose one of the two Colonies that remain to her, for beyond her Central African possessions her flag floats nowhere overseas.

The Union of South Africa is despatching troops to East Africa. Though the appeal for these troops was made by the British Government, the hearty response is not altogether due to sentiment. It is as it should be based on interest. General Botha perceives that German strength anywhere in the Continent is a menace to the security of the Union. Her East African contingent is, therefore, at once a symbol of national and Imperial policy.

Up to November 9th the British casualties on land and sea were 510,230 killed, wounded and missing.

(To be continued.)

THE seizure of Captain Wilson and Captain Napier on a neutral vessel in the Mediterranean by the officers of an Austrian submarine recalls the *Trent* affair of 1861 which nearly involved England in war with the Northern States of America. Slidell and Mason, Commissioners of the Southern Confederacy, while on their way to Europe, were seized by Captain Wilkes of the Union warship *El Jacinto* on board the Royal Mail Steam Packet Steamer *Trent* in the Bahama Channel and taken to Boston. The British Government demanded an apology and President Lincoln, in spite of popular clamour, wisely adopted the right course and repudiated the action of Wilkes. Is it too much to hope that Austria will similarly uphold the principles of neutrality?

The West India Committee's coloured wall-map of the West Indies (size 3ft. 9in. by 2ft. 10in.) is supplied to subscribers to the CIRCULAR, members of the West India Committee, and educational authorities in the West Indies at the special price of 7s. 6d. each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8s. 4d.; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; and 5s. for each copy in sheet form, post free 5s. 7d. inland, and 6s. 4d. to British Possessions.

## THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

### The West Indian Contingent Fund.

WITH the arrival of detachments from Jamaica, the Bahamas, and British Honduras, the British West Indies Regiment is now fully representative of the British Colonies which have never before acted in such perfect unison as they have done in sending over this splendid body of men to fight for their King and Country. The physique and general appearance of the new-comers have been very favourably commented upon at Seaford, and the results of the preliminary training which the men have received in Jamaica has shown already in their military bearing and discipline. The men are already shaking down well with the earlier arrivals.

The Regiment was recently inspected by General Sir Leslie Rundle, and all ranks are proud of the following message which was subsequently published in Battalion Orders.

"The Commander-in-Chief greatly appreciates the smart and soldierlike appearance of the men of the Contingent, and that when spoken to, they give evidence of having been well trained in their preliminary work."

The health of the Battalion continues to show improvement, and, thanks to a spell of milder weather, the men are rapidly becoming acclimated. Two deaths have to be reported, Acting Corporal Brown, of St. Vincent (C Company) having been killed as a result of a cycle accident, while Private Romney, of St. Lucia (E Company), has succumbed to an acute attack of pneumonia. Both were buried with full military honours.

On December 2nd the camp was visited by a party of members of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee, comprising Sir Everard im Thurn, Sir George Le Hunte, Sir Sydney Olivier, Mr. Bonyun, and the Hon. Secretary, the Ladies' Committee being represented by Lady Grey-Wilson and Miss Moseley. While the ladies were visiting the Surrey Home—the hospital to which most of the men are taken who are sick—the rest of the party were conducted round the North Camp by Colonel Barchard. The elements were far from propitious for such a visit, there being a heavy downpour of rain falling throughout the afternoon, but though it involved wading through seas of mud, the tour of the huts was conscientiously undertaken. For the edification of the visitors Sergeant-Instructor Stone put some of the men through gymnastic exercises, which they appeared to enjoy immensely. The Regiment is rapidly getting into ship-shape order, and it is understood that the names of the officers will shortly be gazetted, and various acting appointments to the non-commissioned ranks confirmed. With the next CIRCULAR it is proposed to publish the complete roll of the Regiment to date, giving the new Regimental numbers of the men.

Now that the strength of the British West Indies Regiment has been increased from 2,000 to 6,000 men it is certain that a far larger sum than that already collected will be needed to provide for com-

forts, etc., and for the well-being of the men generally. In the circumstances it is hoped that the readers of the CIRCULAR will do their best to swell the West Indian Contingent Fund, which at present stands at £3,089 13s. 3d.

### A Concert in aid of the Fund.

In aid of the Fund a Grand Concert is to be held on Tuesday, January 25th, at 3 p.m., in the Great Gallery of the Royal Automobile Club under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, who has graciously consented to be present on that occasion. The price of tickets is 10s. each, including tea, which will follow the concert. An excellent programme is being prepared by Mr. J. Bromley, who has kindly undertaken the arrangements, and it is hoped that his efforts will be liberally supported by the members of the West Indian community in London.

During the past fortnight the following additional subscriptions towards the West Indian Contingent Fund have been received.

	£	s.	d.
The Presidency of St. Kitts ... ..	50	0	0
The St. Andrews Race Club, Grenada (per H. Astley Berkeley, Esq.) ... ..	37	2	0
Per Benjamin C. Frith, Esq. —			
Proceeds of Garden Party at Palm Grove by Miss L. A. Frith ... ..	13	11	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Benjamin C. Frith, Esq. ... ..	16	6	0
Chas. H. Astwood, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
F. Stanley Cannon, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Miss L. A. Frith ... ..	10	0	0
Geo. S. Frith, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
W. Stanley Jones, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Maurice A. Manuel, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Jas. Queen, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
Chas. W. Stephenson, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
H. S. Crisson, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Miss Gwen Darrell ... ..	5	0	0
C. W. Frith, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
J. D. Wood, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
T. T. Godet, Esq. ... ..	4	0	0
Frank Manuel, Esq. ... ..	2	6	0
John Spencer, Esq. ... ..	2	6	0
Walter Coulbrooke, Esq. ... ..	2	0	0
Felix Grant, Esq. ... ..	6	0	0
William R. A. Talbot, Esq. ... ..	6	0	0
John M. Evelyn, Esq. (to purchase Christmas present for men of St. Kitts Contingent) ... ..	18	3	0
Mrs. J. E. Robinson (collected to present each of Trinidad men with a Christmas gift to value of 5/-) ... ..	11	5	0
Hon. Sir G. Townsend Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Valdenar Hanschell, Esq. ... ..	10	0	0
The Pupils of the Girls' High School, St. Vincent (to purchase Christmas gifts for St. Vincent Contingent) ... ..	8	15	0
R. M. Otway, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0
Hon. H. A. Alcazar, K.C. ... ..	5	0	0
Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G. ... ..	5	0	0
A. P. Cowley, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Sir Chas. T. Cox, K.C.M.G. ... ..	5	0	0
Miss Alice A. James ( earmarked to purchase comforts for Barbados men) ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Grace V. Johnson ... ..	5	0	0
Lady Lubbock ... ..	5	0	0
H. Rolle, Esq. ... ..	5	0	0
Geo. S. Browne, Esq. ... ..	3	0	0
W. P. Ebbels, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
H. A. Alford Nicholls, Esq., C.M.G., M.D. ... ..	2	2	0
W. N. Phillips, Esq. (to purchase gifts for Private C. M. Phillips) ... ..	2	2	0

	£	s.	d.
Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne	2	2	0
C. W. Scott, Esq.	2	1	8
P. J. Brown, Esq.	2	0	0
Capt. S. E. Pemberton, R.F.	2	0	0
Barbados Government Treasury Staff (per W. N. Phillips, Esq.)	1	1	0
H. Astley Berkeley, Esq.	1	1	0
J. D'Abadie, Esq.	1	1	0
W. H. Fretz, Esq., F.R.C.P.	1	1	0
John T. Haynes, Esq.	1	1	0
N. Scott Johnstone, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. McDonalds & Co.	1	1	0
W. A. Pitt, Esq.	1	1	0
F. Potter, Esq.	1	1	0
H. J. Rudolf, Esq.	1	1	0
A. Percival Skeat, Esq.	1	1	0
Dr. the Hon. Francis Watts, C.M.G.	1	1	0
Conrad J. Arthur, Esq., M.D.	1	0	10
Claude Connell, Esq.	1	0	10
Peter Abel, Esq.	1	0	0
H. S. Arrindell, Esq.	1	0	0
J. Wood Davis, Esq.	1	0	0
A. F. G. Ellis (for comforts, per Ladies' Committee)	1	0	0
Richard P. Kaps, Esq.	1	0	0
Harry W. Mortlock, Esq.	1	0	0
Albert B. Owen, Esq.	1	0	0
Hy. S. Schmaar, Esq.	1	0	0
L. H. S. Scott, Esq.	1	0	0
George A. S. Slack, Esq.	1	0	0
A. O. Thurston, Esq.	1	0	0
R. A. Wiseman, Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs. Knight & Co.	10	0	0
W. E. McConnell, Esq.	10	0	0

The object of the Fund is to enable the Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort of the men of the Bermudian and West Indian Contingents, as well as of some hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come over to fight for their King and Country. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

### Gifts for the Contingent.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following gifts received during the past fortnight:—

- \* Bed jackets (56), helmets (36), gloves (120 prs.), mittens (12 prs.), from Lady Phillips.
- Mittens (10 prs.) and gloves (9 prs.) from Mrs. James Richmond.
- Mufflers (2), mittens (2 prs.), and socks (1 pr.) from Mrs. Beckett.
- Belts (3), mittens (4 prs.) from Mrs. Sheldon.
- Scarves (2), helmet (1), and socks (1 pr.) from Mrs. Algernon Aspinall.
- Shirts (5), scarves (3), helmet (1), socks (1 pr.), stockings (1 pr.), putties (3 prs.), from 2nd Lieut. W. B. Wolseley.
- Mittens (3 prs.), scarves (2) from Miss Goffe.
- Mittens (6 prs.), for British Guiana men, from Miss Lynch Thomas.
- Mittens (6 prs.), scarf (1), for Jamaica men, from Miss A. J. Dovy.
- Warm gloves from Mrs. Lindley Nunn (3 prs.); Miss Porterfield (2 prs.); E. Phillips (1 pr.); Mrs. Norton Taylor (2 prs., for Jamaica men); Mrs. Arthur Johnson (8 prs.); Miss James (4 prs.); Miss Tremearne (1 pr.); Mrs. Gordon Turner (6 prs., for Demerara men); Miss L. Jeffrey (1 pr.); the Hon. Mrs. Henry Edwardes (8 prs.); Lady Hayes Sadler (20 prs.).
- Mittens, from Mrs. T. William Wilkinson (14 prs.), Miss Gardner (1 pr.).
- Scarves (15) and sundry comforts from Mr. G. H. Bailey.

Scarves (4), socks (15 prs.), mittens (13 prs.), helmet and magazines from Mrs. Rutherford.

Scarves (2), mittens (1 pr.), from Mrs. Cunningham Craig.

Made bandages (12), rolled bandages (12), slings (6), eye bandages (12), slippers (2 prs.), mittens (9 prs.), scarves (17), socks (12 prs.) from Lady Llewelyn.

Khaki handkerchiefs (4 doz.), for Barbados men, from Miss Braithwaite.

Shirt (1), socks (1 pr.) from Miss Thomson.

Scarf (1), mittens (5 prs.), socks (4 prs.) from Miss K. Gray.

Mufflers (18), mittens (12 prs.), gloves (25 prs.), from Mrs. Seymour Kane.

Mittens (12 prs.) from Mrs. Nourse.

Scarf (1), mittens (1 pr.), socks (1 pr.) from Mrs. Harley Moseley.

Mufflers (2), from the Hon. Mrs. Henry Edwardes.

Scarves (3) and mittens (6 prs.), from Mrs. Moody Stuart.

Scarves (6), socks (2 prs.), mittens (6 prs.), from Miss Smith.

Gloves (2 prs.), socks (1 pr.), from Mrs. W. Hart.

### WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

The people of Barbados, at the instance of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, to whom much credit is due for his initiative in the matter, have now subscribed over £1,900 for two motor ambulances for the British Red Cross Society and their maintenance. The last remittance, received by the West India Committee, on this account amounted to £400, which has been forwarded to the proper quarter and has been gratefully acknowledged by the Society. Messrs. Elders and Pyffes steamers *Coronado* and *Cavina* which arrived at Avonmouth on November 22nd and December 6th, respectively, brought 406 packages of oranges, grapefruit, lemons and limes, besides preserves, clothing, cigarettes, books, etc., from the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and the Royal Mail Steamer *Magdalena*, which reached London on December 6th, brought 90 cases of oranges and limes, in addition to a large quantity of lime juice and some shaddock preserve sent by the Trinidad Orange and Lime Committee. The Dominica Agricultural Society sent 72 packages of limes, oranges and grapefruit. Mrs. Brodie, of Grenada, whose generosity seems inexhaustible, forwarded 3 barrels of fruit, and Mrs. Sworder, of Tobago, to whom the same remark applies, sent a further case of preserves, while Mrs. Spooner, of Antigua, sent another case of clothing for the Belgian refugees, and Mrs. Flood, of Barbadoes, a really enormous case of linen and bandages. In addition to the gifts already acknowledged mention must be made of 5 cases of guava jelly from the people of the Grand Cayman Islands, which arrived in the *Camito* at Avonmouth on November 7th.

The guava jelly from Grand Cayman was packed in 35 ten-pound tins and there were few members of the community who did not take some share in making the gift a success. Some persons gave sugar, some the money with which to purchase it, whilst the merchants helped willingly in the distribution; others contributed the fruit, some gathered firewood, some the guavas. Collectors gave faithful aid in making known the purpose of

the fund; the schooner owners and captains offered free transportation to Jamaica, and the local cartmen conveyed free the fruit and the tins; many children gladly ran on errands and carried messages; carriage by canoe, by hand-cart, by hand, facilities for storage, for the soldering, the casing—all gave opportunity for kindly co-operation. Everyone seemed to welcome the chance to do something for the wounded heroes.

### THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

*Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their Country are given below.*

- Alexander, F.R.C.S., Lieut. Harold (son of Mrs. Douglass Alexander, of Grenada), Indian Medical Service. *In India.*
- Alexander, Lieut. Percy (son of Mrs. Douglass Alexander, of Grenada), 11th Batt. Essex Regiment.
- Alexander, Trooper Ralph (son of Mrs. Douglass Alexander, of Grenada), King Edward's Horse. *At the front in France.*
- Archer, Captain Frank (son of Captain F. G. Archer, late A.S.C., and formerly of the Commissary Department in Belize, British Honduras), Army Service Corps.
- Arthur, Douglas (son of Mr. James Arthur, formerly of Belize, British Honduras), Canadian Contingent.
- Atkin, Lieut. John Percy Hume (son of the late Rev. W. A. Atkin, formerly Wesleyan Minister in Belize, British Honduras), 2nd Canadian Contingent. *At the front in France.*
- Beattie, Private Cameron Alex. Bell (son of Mr. A. J. Beattie, formerly of Belize, and brother of Mr. C. R. Beattie, Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada), 5th Batt. Devonshire Regiment.
- Bovell, Captain C. W. K. (son of the late Mr. Conrad Pile Bovell), Superintendent of Police in Uganda.
- Branch, Reginald (son of Archdeacon Branch, Bishop of Antigua), Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. *At the front.*
- Brodie, Captain Hugh W. (son of Mr. James Brodie, formerly of Belize, British Honduras), 4th Batt. East Kent Regiment (The Buffs). *At the front in France.*
- Challenor, Lieut.-Colonel Edward Lacy (brother of Mr. Robert Challenor, of Barbados), 6th (Service) Batt. Leicester Regiment. *At the front.*
- Challenor, George (brother of Mr. Robert Challenor, of Barbados), Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Challenor, Haynes (brother of Mr. Robert Challenor, of Barbados), Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Clayton, 2nd Lieut. James (son of Mr. A. G. Clayton, late of the Colonial Service in British Honduras), 3rd Dorsetshire Regiment, attached to 1st Dorsets.
- Clodd, 2nd Lieut. Arthur (late of Green Island, Jamaica), 3/1st Suffolk Yeomanry.
- Cox, 2nd Lieut. Charles (son of Sir Charles T. Cox, late Government Secretary of British Guiana), Royal Garrison Artillery.
- Cuthbert, Lieut. James Harvey (son of the late J. M. Cuthbert, and nephew of the Hon. S. Cuthbert, M.L.C., British Honduras), Royal Army Medical Corps. *At the front in France.*
- Cuthbert, Corporal S. Iyell (son of the late J. M. Cuthbert, and nephew of the Hon. S. Cuthbert, M.L.C., British Honduras), City of Edinburgh (Fortress) Royal Engineers.
- Fraser, Lieut. Douglas James (son of Mr. J. Fraser, Manager of Miller's Stores, Trinidad), C/48th Battery Royal Field Artillery.
- Golding, 2nd Lieut. C. B. (of Grenada), Royal Field Artillery.
- Harrison, 2nd Lieut. "Paddy" (son of Dr. Harrison, Principal Medical Officer, British Honduras), Lancashire Regiment.
- Harrison, 2nd Lieut. "Bully" (son of Dr. Harrison (Prin-
- cipal Medical Officer, British Honduras), Remount Department.
- Kinnersley, Lieut. Thomas Ralph S. (step-son of Sir Walter Egerton, Governor of British Guiana), Royal Engineers.
- Leadam, Lieut. Trevor T. S. (son-in-law of the late Mr. Neil McKinnou, K.C., of British Guiana), Royal Garrison Artillery.
- Lord, Nurse Edith (daughter of Rev. J. W. Lord, formerly Wesleyan Minister in British Honduras), Red Cross Nurse with first detachment British Expeditionary Force.
- Macdonald, James (son of the late Mr. James Macdonald, formerly of Belize, British Honduras), Canadian Contingent.
- Manning, Captain Arthur Pitcher (son of Mr. Samuel Manning, of Barbados), with British Expeditionary Force in German East Africa.
- Manning, John Carlton (son of Mr. Samuel Manning, of Barbados), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
- Mapleton, George Burdett (second son of the late Dr. G. H. Mapleton, of Goudhurst, Kent, and St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Dr. Burdett Johnson, of Montserrat), Mechanical Transport Section, Army Service Corps.
- Masson, Trooper James (son of the late Mr. R. K. Masson, formerly of Belize, British Honduras), 2/2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons).
- McPhail, Private J. H. (son of Dr. Digby McPhail, of St. Lucia), Honourable Artillery Company.
- Panting, Private Alan (son of Mr. H. T. Panting, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul at San Pedro Sula, Honduras), Public Schools Battalion.
- Phillips, Thomas B. (son of the late Hon. J. H. Phillips, C.M.G., M.E.C., formerly of the Colonial Service of British Honduras), the Nigeria Defence Force.
- Phillips, Gerald B. (son of the late Hon. J. H. Phillips, C.M.G., M.E.C., formerly of the Colonial Service of British Honduras), Canadian Contingent.
- Potter, Private A. J. (son of Mr. T. I. Potter, Registrar-General of Trinidad and Tobago), Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps.
- Seager, Captain Ralph (of Lochaber, Berbice, British Guiana), British Guiana Militia.
- Schult, and Lieut. Edgar (son of the late Mr. Robert Schult, of Benekendorff, Berger & Co., of London and Jamaica), 16th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.
- Turpin, 2nd Lieut. Charles V. (youngest son of the Ven. Archdeacon E. A. Turpin, of St. Vincent), Royal Garrison Artillery.
- Usher, Private Hubert Wardlaw (son of Mr. J. P. Usher, of British Honduras), 26th Batt. (Bankers) Royal Fusiliers.
- Usher, Trooper Herman (son of the Hon. A. R. Usher, M.L.C., British Honduras), 2/2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons).
- Winter, Corporal Griffith (son of Mr. A. R. Winter, of British Honduras), Queen's Westminster Regiment.

The Editor is indebted to the *Guardian* for the British Honduras names in the above list. He will be glad to receive information as to rank and regiments of the under-mentioned men:—

- Labbett, J. W. H., of British Honduras.  
 Leckie, Douglas, of British Honduras.  
 Leckie, Victor, of British Honduras.  
 Marshall, Reginald, of British Honduras.  
 Robertson, William J., of British Honduras.  
 Schofield, Thomas, of British Honduras.

### Died of Wounds.

SECOND LIEUTENANT OWEN S. MELHADO, of the 6th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, has, we much regret to state, died in hospital at Malta, on December 7th, of wounds received in Gallipoli. Mr. Melhado, who was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Melhado, of Kingston, Jamaica, joined the 11th Yorkshire Regiment, in which he was a brother officer of the late Mr. T. W. Rutherford soon after its formation, and, was transferred from it to the 6th Battalion, with which he was serving when he received his fatal wound.

**Honours.**

Major C. G. Browne, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who has been promoted from the rank of Captain, has also been awarded the D.S.O. Major Browne is nephew of Mr. Browne, of Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son, and part-proprietor of "Waltham" Estate, Grenada.

Lieut.-Colonel A. L. Jaquet, Chef d'Etat Major du 16e Corps d'Armée France, on whom the King has just conferred a C.M.G., is a cousin of Mr. Sydney Jaquet, solicitor, of Port Antonio, Jamaica.

**Prisoner of War.**

Lieut. Selwyn Branch (3rd son of Canon Branch) of the 12th Batt. West Yorkshire Regiment, was wounded and taken prisoner at Loos.

**Alterations and Corrections.**

Chandler, 2nd Lieut. John (son of Rev. J. T. H. Chandler, of Jamaica), 3rd Batt. 19th County of London Regiment.  
Delafons, 2nd Lieut. Reginald A. (late of British Guiana), 7th Batt. Dorset Regiment. *At the Front.*

**THE TRINIDAD MERCHANTS' CONTINGENT.**

We give below a list of the members of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, giving the names of the regiments which they have joined.

Balfour, Cecil, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Barnett, Henry J., Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Bernard, Andrew J., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Booth, George, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Campbell, James A., 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Clark, Henry, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Cousins, 2nd Lieut. David, Royal Engineers.  
Crawford, John, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Collins, Victor, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Daly, Sydney, 2nd Life Guards.  
de Gauntes, Raphael, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
de Nobrigh, Joseph O., 1st King Edward's Horse.  
de Nobrigh, Lewis, Royal Engineers.  
de Sousa, Alexander, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
de Sousa, George, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
de Verteuil, Leo, 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
Dow, 2nd Lieut. Henry, Royal Fusiliers.  
Duritz, Eric, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Evelyn, Albert P., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Edghill, George, 2nd Life Guards.  
Edghill, Napoleon, 2nd Life Guards.  
Fahey, Frederick O., 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Farfan, 2nd Lieut. Vicarte L., Royal Fusiliers.  
Farrar, Walter F., Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Ferreira, Edwin, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Galt, Kenneth, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Geoffrey, Peter, 2nd Life Guards.  
Gibson, Gavin, London Scottish.  
Gellizeau, Hector, 2nd Life Guards.  
Gonzales, Andrés, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Gooch, Cecil M., 2nd Life Guards.  
Govia, Egbert, 2nd Life Guards.  
Govia, Martin, 2nd Life Guards.  
Grantham, Vernon J., 2nd Life Guards.  
Hadley, Sidney, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Hale, Richard, 2nd Life Guards.  
Hale, William, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Hamel-Smith, Arnold, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Hamel-Smith, Oswald, 2nd Life Guards.  
Hares, Cyril R., 2nd Life Guards.  
Hodge, George W., 2nd Life Guards.  
Horne, Alfred E., Flying Corps.  
Howard, William, 2nd Life Guards.  
Huggins, A. Percy, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Ince, Louis, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
James, Spencer, Flying Corps, Armoured Car Section, Russia.  
Johnston, Edwin W., Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Johnstone, Romer, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Kernahan, Joseph, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Knaggs, Lawford, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Knox, Harold, 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
Knox, Wilfred, 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
Lamy, Lionel, 2nd Life Guards.  
Laughlin, George E., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Laver, John A., Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Macleod, Eric L., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Macpherson, James E., Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Maingot, Leo, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Maingot, Joseph, 2nd Life Guards.  
Maingot, Henry, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Maingot, Ronald, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Maingot, Vivian, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Marryat, Hugh, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
McCracken, Albert, London Rifle Brigade.  
McDougall, John R., 24th Middlesex.  
McInroy, William, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
McNicol, James, London Scottish.  
Miller, William J., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Murray, Leslie M., 2nd Life Guards.  
Norman, Cyril, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
O'Connor, Brian, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
O'Connor, Roderick, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Oliver, Alfred H., London Rifle Brigade.  
Patterson, Walter J., 2nd Life Guards.  
Potter, Arthur, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Pouchet, N. G., 2nd Life Guards.  
Prada, Louis, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Quesnel, Robert E., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Rawlins, Steadman, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Reid, Kenneth, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Robertson, 2nd Lieut. John, Royal Engineers.  
Rochford, John, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Rochemont, Jules, 2nd Life Guards.  
Rodrigues, George, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Rooks, Errol G., Flying Corps.  
Rooks, Frank, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Scott, Cecil, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Scott, Ivan, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Scheult, André, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Scheult, Robert, 1st King Edward's Horse.  
Sellier, Numa, 2nd King Edward's Horse.  
Seou, Sidney O., Flying Corps, Wireless Department.  
Sherlock-Maingot, Patrick, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Spencer, Cleveland, 2nd Life Guards.  
Stalley, George, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
Stone, André, 2nd Life Guards.  
Stopford, John, Flying Corps, Armoured Car Section, Russia.  
Trestrail, Laurie, Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Turpin, 2nd Lieut. Charles V., Royal Garrison Artillery Reserve.  
Villarroel, Felix, 2nd Life Guards.  
Vincent, Claud, Army Service Corps.  
Wade, James A., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Wade, Robert A., Artists' Rifles O.T.C.  
Warner, Norman, 2nd Life Guards.  
Watt, Robert, Flying Corps.

Gordon Burke and Clive Bynoe are in hospital, and Stanley R. Clarke, Ralph Fabian, Harold Goodfellow, and F. Justin Miller are under medical treatment.

A second Merchants' Contingent is being recruited in Trinidad and Tobago, and should soon reach this country.

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies is being put to an interesting use in the B.W.I.'s Orderly Room at Seaford Camp. It is liberally dotted with flags which at first glance make it look as though the West Indies are in a state of siege. Closer examination reveals the fact that the flags denote the strength of the various contingents. Incidentally they show too how all the West Indian colonies have been united through the common cause—the defence of the Empire.

## NIGERIAN CACAO.

### An Official Report on its Preparation.

Complaints having been made as to the quality of cacao produced and prepared in Nigeria, Mr. W. H. Johnson has furnished the Secretariat of the Southern Provinces with a report on the preparation of that product for market by the natives in the neighbourhood of Calabar.

In this he states that increased attention has been given to this matter during the current year, and more especially in the Eastern Division. With regard to the Calabar cacao industry, Mr. A. H. Kirby, Assistant Director of Agriculture, has recently reported that:—

(a) A large proportion of the insufficiently fermented cacao comes from farmers, who are ignorant of the preparation.

(b) Many growers know how cacao should be prepared, but do not use their knowledge because (1) they wish to obtain money for their cacao as quickly as possible, and will not keep it back to ferment it properly; (2) good cacao made by them has not brought in any more money than bad cacao sold at the same time.

(c) From the merchants' point of view, the payment of better prices to encourage the adoption of improved methods, is not practicable, because Calabar cacao is mostly sold, to deliver, and not on sample, on a recognised standard of Calabar unfermented cacao.

The local Department of Agriculture is endeavouring to solve the problem mentioned in (a) by giving cacao curing demonstrations with portable fermenting boxes, at temporary centres. It should be possible to get rid of the difficulties mentioned in (b) if the merchants can be induced to alter their sale conditions.

The same officer reports that, in the Oron, Ikot Ubo, Eket, Uyo, Abak, and Itu districts, any attempt by the farmers to prepare better cacao is discouraged by the circumstance that they can get no price for it better than that given for the ordinary, badly fermented cacao.

After his visits to the Azumini district last year, the Mycologist reported as follows:—

"In the Azumini district visits were paid to the plantations of Chief Ben Stowe, and in Aba (Nsulu) to those of Mr. Walter Banego. Both owners complained of the unremunerative returns from their prepared cacao. On both plantations I saw samples of cured cacao. Chief Ben Stowe's had been taken straight from the pods and washed. There were a considerable number of flat and immature beans, but otherwise it was quite equal to what I have seen in the Western Provinces. Mr. Walter Banego's cacao had been 'fermented' three days, then washed and dried. The sample was very clean, and on the whole even, and compared very favourably with the average Western Provinces product. Yet in the case of the former 2d. per lb. was the most realised, and in the latter 3d. Both growers take their product to Opobo, by canoe, from which it is shipped direct to England. The merchants thus incur no expense comparable to what they do in buying at railway stations, from which they have to take the cacao to Lagos for shipment.

"In my report on my tour of the Meko district last year, I pointed out that an all-round price of 4½d. per lb. was given at Olomu, regardless of quality, and in this case too the buyers had to bear the cost of railway transport to Lagos."

The Assistant Director of Agriculture reports that well fermented cacao is sometimes spoiled,

owing to the difficulty, caused by rain, of getting it sun dried. He suggests the introduction of a simple form of drier, similar to the one seen at a factory owned by Germans at Ikang. Further that if after inspection by a Marine or Public Works Department Officer, this machine should be found in sufficiently good condition, it should be acquired by the Department, and set up in Calabar for demonstration purposes, and probable subsequent disposal to a cacao farmer or farmers.

## A RELIC OF SLAVERY.

### An Interesting Find in Antigua.

Dr. J. H. Cooke, District Medical Superintendent of Antigua, who has just returned to this country on leave of absence, made an interesting discovery at his residence, Cedar Hill House, in St. Peter's Parish, shortly before his departure. One of his servants, who was cleaning up the back yard, struck with his hoe a flat stone, which, when unearthed, turned out to be a memorial tablet of native limestone, 31 in. by 21 in., to a faithful slave. The inscription on the stone runs:—

SACRED  
to the Memory of  
CÆSAR

This tablet is erected by his Master and Mistress in Commemoration of his Truth, Honesty and singular Fidelity.

Non omnis moriar  
Multaque Pars mei  
Vitabit Libitina.

Verdict of the Jury, 10th May. . . . (obliterated)  
Found Drowned.

Cedar Hill House, one of the historic Great Houses in the island, was formerly the seat of the Byam family. The last representative of the family to live there was Colonel Sir William Byam, a Waterloo veteran, whose charger lies buried in the grounds of the residence. The house is now the property of the Hon. J. J. Camacho.

IN India, the home of the mango, there are some 500 varieties of this fruit. To avoid chaos some definite system of classification is absolutely necessary. Writing in the *Agricultural Journal of India*, Messrs. Burns and Prayag consider that the plan adopted by the International Ampelographic Commission at Kolmar in 1875 for grapes might be well extended to mangoes. The three classes suggested were: (1) Round fruited, including those varieties with fruits in which the length from stalk to apex is equal to, or is less than the breadth; (2) Long fruited, in which the length is distinctly greater than the breadth; (3) Indefinite, to include those which fall into neither of these classes. Further, they advocate a world-wide classification to include Indian, West Indian and Philippine mangoes.

## STATE SUGAR AND MEAT PURCHASES.

### Mr. Runciman's Socialism on a business basis.

The Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Trade met representatives of the Trade Unions of the country at a Conference on December 1st in order to impress upon them the urgent need of National economy. During the proceedings Mr. Runciman made an important statement regarding the action which the Government had taken to keep down the prices of sugar, meat and wheat.

In England, when the war broke out, he said, there was a danger of the retailers who had stocks suddenly being able, because of the panic among householders, to rush up their prices to abnormally high levels at once. A great many people were afraid that they were not going to get enough to eat. He was told that in the case of some stores in London rich people came down in their motor-cars and filled them up with groceries. (Laughter.) He was glad to say that in the House of Commons they were held up to obloquy within a week. But the effect of that suddenly-increased demand and real fear on the part of some people was to send up retail prices. Immediately that happened the Chancellor of the Exchequer—who was then Home Secretary—and he called together the principal retailers in London. They told them quite clearly that they could not allow the situation to be exploited in that way; that they must understand that, in the public interest, they had to play their part; and that they must not attempt to make great profits out of the temporary and ungrounded panic of consumers.

The result was that during the anxious six to eight weeks after the outbreak of war, prices were kept steadier than anyone imagined they could have been kept. That was only the beginning, because immediately they got behind the retailer they have to get at the back of the big supplies.

The first thing they discovered was that part of Germany's military method was to starve us out of some of our commodities. We were dependent on Germany mainly for sugar. She absolutely stopped the whole of her supplies of beet sugar to this country, and we ran the risk of being out of sugar in a very few weeks had we not then embarked on one of the greatest Socialistic experiments that has ever been undertaken by a Government.

The Royal Commission on sugar was set up, but weeks before, his right hon. friend, with an expert body behind him, was buying sugar all over the world. He bought it in Cuba, before the Americans knew what we were after. He bought it in South Africa, whence no supplies had been coming for some years. He was a buyer in Mauritius and India. He went about it secretly. If they had talked about it publicly they would have spoiled the market against us. They had already expended on these vast supplies of sugar well over £40,000,000. The State would lose nothing by the transaction, and the con-

sumers were able to keep going without paying prices at a famine level.

Mr. Runciman then proceeded to describe the steps which had been taken to secure supplies of frozen meat which are essential for the Army. Sugar, he said, was vastly important, but it was not so important as meat. It being impossible to control the great houses, mainly in America, which handle frozen meat, the Government took over the refrigerating ships, not at the market price, but at "an enormous reduction below the first price that was asked." Well over £25,000,000 was then spent in the purchase of frozen meat.

With regard to wheat, the Government were not able to control the wheat supplies of the world. Wheat was not centralised as meat was. Thanks to the Navy the submarine menace had been averted; but no risks could be taken, and a large margin of supply of wheat had to be maintained, so the Government purchased in America and in South America at a cost of millions. Again it was done secretly, and that was one of the difficulties. What was done last year leaked out, and this season they turned to India. The Indian Government co-operated, taking over the whole of the surplus stock of wheat, and fixing a price fair to the Indian farmer, handed it over to us in the United Kingdom. That enabled us to keep up a margin of safety larger than it had ever been in this generation. That was Socialism again. (Laughter.) It was Socialism on a business basis. (Cheers.)

In conclusion Mr. Runciman said that he was always prepared to embark on Socialism on those terms. Grant the necessity and grant that it could be done better by the State than by other people, then he was prepared to embark upon it.

DR. BRINCKER, of the Public Health Service of the London County Council, has made a discovery of considerable importance in connection with the family history of the house fly. He has found that as soon as autumn appears the fly-larvæ dig themselves into their food and remain embedded deep surrounded by the warmth afforded by the slowly decaying matter. Here they scarcely show signs of life, while their winter home becomes hard and encrusted on the surface. These hibernating insects are still lying buried, and the coming of spring is awaited to see if they are going to hatch out again as mature flies.

\* \* \*

As Professor Ross points out this experiment is of considerable importance, because if it is proved that flies hibernate during their larval stages in their food, the problem of fly-prevention for public health purposes will be much simplified. It will then only be necessary to make a thorough examination of all fly-feeding or fly-breeding places at our leisure during the winter months, and to cleanse all possible fly-lairs—manure, refuse, garbage, waste-food deposits, etc.—in order to bring about a vast reduction of this pest during the ensuing summer.



## PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

Considerable progress has been made in securing protection against fire in the West Indies in recent years, and most of the principal towns have fire brigades and fire prevention appliances.

The fact that so many of the houses are constructed of wood constitutes an added fire risk, and renders it all the more imperative that adequate fire extinguishing equipment should be provided. For the larger towns a horse-draught steam fire engine, or better still, a motor fire engine, forms a thoroughly up-to-date means of protection. The Georgetown fire brigade, profiting by the experience of the disastrous fires of 1913, have recently acquired a petrol motor fire engine, an illustration of which is given on this page (Fig. 1). This engine is of the "Hatfield" type, and can turn out immediately on receipt of an alarm, and travel at high speed to the scene of outbreak. The motor which propels the vehicle is also employed to run the pump, which has

a capacity of 250-300 gallons per minute. A single jet of 1 in. diameter can be discharged to a height of 150 feet, or as many as four useful fire extinguishing jets of smaller size can be thrown simultaneously. The power of the motor is transferred from the road wheels to the pump by merely actuating a single lever, so that as soon as the fire is reached there is no delay in getting to work. A 35 feet extension ladder is carried overhead, and box accommodation is provided for a large quantity of delivery hose and usual working gear.

For the smaller towns and villages, as well as for the protection of public and private buildings, plantations, etc., the handy little engine known as the "Valiant," (owing to the fact that the first of its type was supplied many years ago for service on

board H.M.S. *Valiant*) is largely used (Fig. 2). It is made in two leading sizes, to deliver 100 and 200 gallons per minute respectively, the smaller weighing 6½ cwt. (without carriage), and the larger 11 cwt. It can thus be readily moved about on the two-wheeled carriage, while rings are provided on the boiler through which poles can be passed, so that the engine can be carried on men's shoulders and

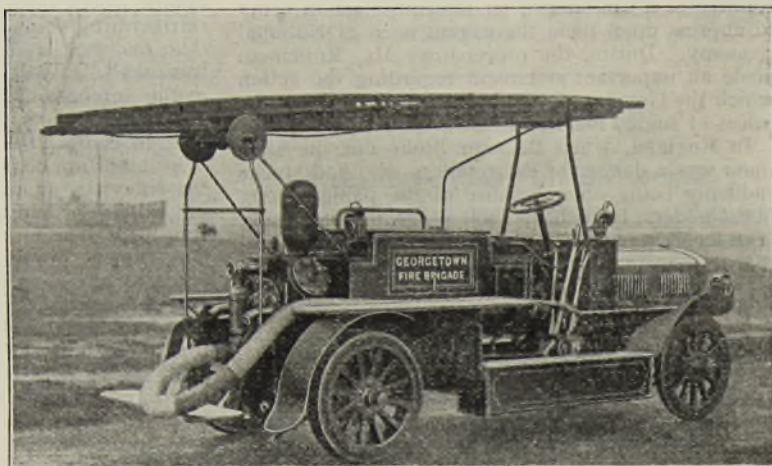


FIG. 1.—A MOTOR FIRE ENGINE IN USE IN GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA.

thus be taken through places which may be too narrow for the wheels to pass through. In addition to fire protection, the "Valiant" can be used for a great variety of purposes, such as water supply, irrigation, street flushing and watering, pumping out flooded workings, filling reservoirs, etc. If desired the engine can be fitted with arrangements for throwing the pump out of gear, when, by means of the flywheel, it can be used for driving light machinery, such as a circular saw, gold stamp, chaff cutter, etc.

Manual fire engines are still used very extensively, and a useful type is the "Universal" pattern (Fig. 3). This engine is specially suited for hot climates, as apart from the pumping handles, no wood enters into its construction. It is a very useful machine in cases where extensive lands are under cultivation, owing to its adaptability for all kinds of pumping work, in addition to fire extinction. It is, as its name implies, a general purpose pump, and its light weight makes it very convenient for transporting over rough ground. This engine is made in three sizes. The smallest size, which is worked by two or four men, delivers 36 gallons per minute; the intermediate size requires six men and delivers 45 gallons per minute, while the largest size takes eight men on the handles and delivers 55 gallons a minute.

In conclusion, reference may be made to the utility of portable hand fire pumps for the fire protection of all classes of buildings. Such appliances form valuable means for dealing with outbreaks of fire discovered in their early stages. They are simple in use, and can therefore be brought into service

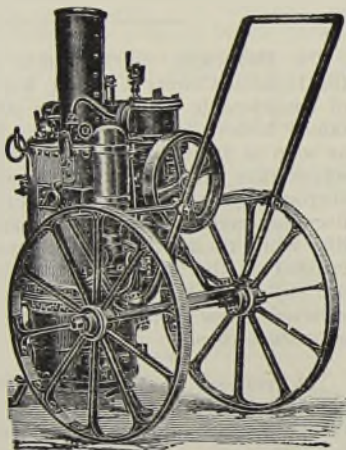


FIG. 2. A "VALIANT" FIRE ENGINE.

by inexperienced persons, and perform their work with a minimum water damage, so that they are strongly to be recommended even in addition to more powerful apparatus. Prompt action with these pumps will frequently do all that is necessary in



FIG. 3. A "UNIVERSAL" MANUAL ENGINE.

case of fire, and, at any rate, they will serve to keep the flames in check while larger appliances are being brought into action. As an instance of their utility it may be mentioned that during one year in London out of 4,199 fires no less than 2,540 were extinguished by the London Brigade hand pump.

For the illustrations accompanying this article we are indebted to Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, Ltd., of Greenwich Road, London.

## CONSULAR REPORTS.

### Cacao in Ashanti.

11,663 tons of cacao were exported by rail from Ashanti in 1914, an increase of 2,970 tons, or of nearly 35 per cent. over the previous year's crop. The estimated value to the native producers could not have fallen far short of £350,000 in spite of the decrease in prices paid owing to the war. Railway freight to the value of £29,812 was paid for cacao in the year.

### The Canary Banana Industry.

The Canary banana industry has been severely hit by the entire closing of the German markets and the low prices obtainable in the United Kingdom, where all the available fruit was sent last year. There was, however, only a slight decrease in the total shipments, 3,335,649 crates being shipped as compared with 3,448,451 in 1913. Unless the war comes to an end within a few months, lasting damage will have been done to the plantations, for the farmers, being unable to dispose of all their fruit, even at the low prices now current, are beginning to neglect their farms, and this neglect, if persisted in for any length of time, will need many years of the most careful cultivation before its effects are overcome.

### Balata and Chicla at Bolivar.

Mr. Consul Hart, in his report on the trade of Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, in 1914, states that the elimination of the German market, which had absorbed about 20 per cent. of the exports, produced a situation making transactions of any kind temporarily impossible. The principal house being German, found it impossible to export or import

anything through Trinidad, and was compelled to await the establishment of regular communication with La Guayra, now used as the transshipment port for their exports which go exclusively to the United States.

The local Balata industry probably reached its high-water mark in 1913, when 2,201,545 kilos were exported. In 1914 there was a large decrease, 685,901 kilos only being exported, while owing to the fall in price the value was little over one-fourth. The industry has been steadily growing more and more unprofitable, and if the article has retained its position so long as the chief export of the district, it has been due to the lack of other channels to which the population could turn its activities. In the year under review the new gold discoveries which attracted a good deal of labour and the development of the chicla industry led to the abandonment of the business in many cases. The export of chicla rose from 68,000 kilos to 264,320 kilos, and a further large increase is expected this year.

### Sakellarides Cotton in Egypt.

The Egyptian cotton crop showed a decrease in 1914-15 owing to the ravages of the boll and pink worms. The position in this respect is serious but much is expected from a new law which decrees that all bolls still adhering to cotton plants must be removed and burned at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the removal of the roots from the ground. The damage to the crop would have been more serious had not the cultivation of Sakellarides cotton, which matures early and escapes the worm to a great extent, been extended. About 1,200,000 acres are under cotton in Egypt this year.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### The British Cane Sugar Industry.

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, whose advocacy of the cause of the British West Indies both in and out of Parliament has placed those colonies under a deep obligation to him, raised the sugar question in the House of Commons on December 7th. Moving an amendment to the Finance Bill to exempt sugar from the Excess Profits Tax, on the ground that it is an agricultural industry, he said: I want to use this Amendment really as a peg on which to hang an appeal to my right hon. Friend. This is a Bill to grant aids to His Majesty for a year and no longer. I want the right hon. Gentleman to recognise, and I am sure he does, that the Colonial sugar-producing interests have hitherto in the course of the Debates in this House raised no protest whatever. They have been perfectly ready to do what was thought fair and to pay any fair share which might be required from them. But I want to ask my right hon. Friend whether he can see his way, before this Clause is re-enacted in any subsequent Finance Bill, to give more consideration than has hitherto been given to the case of these sugar-producing Colonies. I am speaking particularly to-night on behalf of the West Indies, which I know intimately, and with which I have had a long connection. The right hon. Gentleman can quite fairly say, "Why should you come now and ask for special consideration for any particular industry?" I will tell the House why. In the first place, look at this par-

ticular Clause. You are rightly trying to start the beet sugar industry in this country. In other parts of this Bill you are protecting the beet sugar industry—again I think perfectly rightly—to the extent of something over £2 a ton, and you are exempting it under these words which we have just passed from a portion of this tax. That may be perfectly right. You defend that exemption on the ground that this is a new industry. I want to put it to the right hon. Gentleman that the very fact that this industry of Colonial sugar production is an old one unfortunately means that at present it has a millstone of troubles from the past round its neck. It is weighed down with the unfortunate experience of past years. The broad ground on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer commended this tax to the House was this: He said it was right to come and ask for a contribution from a man who had suddenly got excess profits with respect to the expenditure of which he is not committed. These profits were free, therefore it was quite right to tax the profits.

#### THE "DENOUNCED" SUGAR CONVENTION.

I agree, but unfortunately, in the case of the sugar-producing Colonies, they are already committed to the expenditure and any profits which they make are unfortunately not free. The House knows perfectly well some of the difficulties with which sugar producers in these countries have had to contend. We had a long series of years in which they were struggling against the operations of the bounty system. I am not saying whether or not the bounty system was a good thing for this country. There are two opinions about that, but there are no two opinions as to whether it was a bad thing for the West Indies. We were the first victims of the commercial policy of cartels. We are raising these taxes to find money for the War which we have been waging against Germany and Austria for seventeen months. But we were waging commercial war against Germany and Austria for seventeen years. We were the first victims of the commercial attack, and it is from that attack that we have been suffering ever since. The Brussels Convention was denounced. It has not been really denounced because it is left in an unsatisfactory condition, under which the British Colonial sugar industry is still exposed to attacks from bounties or cartels and is precluded by the terms of such fragments of the Convention as still remain in operation from obtaining any preference from the British Government. That is an unsatisfactory situation which I hope will not endure long. But the point I wish to make is that at the time when the Convention was denounced, three years ago, every Minister of the Crown and hon. Members in all quarters of the House—the right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Lough) and I have had many quarrels on the subject of bounties, but even he was one of the first to recognise the fact that if the protection which the West Indies had to a certain extent under the Convention was taken away from them it was going to inflict a great hardship—the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, and the Minister for Munitions, all expressed the greatest sympathy with the position in which the West Indies were being placed. The Colonial Secretary was perfectly frank. He sent a telegram to the Governors of the different West Indian Islands in the following terms, and I want the House to observe what those terms are—

"His Majesty's Government sincerely regret that in the interests of this country it is necessary for them to adopt a policy which does not commend itself to the inhabitants of the sugar-producing Colonies."

All I am asking you to do to-day is to remember that for your own purpose you inflicted great hardship and great injustice on the West Indies, and that, if you possibly can, you should take the first opportunity which offers of doing something as a set-off against the great hardship which you then imposed. The second point which I make in favour of special treatment is this: My right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury has just been dealing with the question of controlled firms, controlled munition establishments. He has said, as one would naturally expect him to say, that at the end of the operations of the first accounting period of the Excess Profits Tax the whole question of the position of con-

trolled establishments will have to be taken into consideration. I say to him, when you are taking that review of the situation, remember that to a large extent the sugar industry, and the sugar industry alone of any industry except munitions, has been an industry which has been directly controlled by the fact that the Government has been engaging in the industry itself. You have had the Sugar Commission operating. You have had the Sugar Commission fixing the price at which sugar is to be sold to them, fixing the price at which they are to sell the sugar to the public, fixing the amount of sugar to be imported into this country, and fixing the conditions under which that sugar is to be imported. You have had the Sugar Commission doing work of that kind, and, quite rightly, working in the direction of limiting prices. I put it to the House and to the right hon. Gentleman that, having in one way by your operations started off by imposing these limitations of prices, it is a little hard that you should come round again, and seek upon that innovation to impose a second one.

#### A PLEA FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

I ought to say that I have had an opportunity for consultation with the right hon. Gentleman and some of his officers about this matter, and I quite recognise that it is not a thing which can be cured by any Amendment of the machinery section of the Bill. The difficulty is this. The retrospective periods which are allowed to be taken into account under the following Sections of the Bill are, unfortunately, periods which bring little if any advantage to the Colonial sugar trade, because the depression there has been too protracted, and it has been too long. I quite recognise that it is not fair to ask the Government to open the net any wider. Therefore, I suggest to the right hon. Gentleman and the House that it has really come to be a question not of machinery but of policy, and I hope that before the tax is reimposed it will be looked at and treated as a question of policy and not merely as a question of fiscal machinery. It is a little hard to see all these Clauses about accumulated profits, and to see how accumulated profits may be re-employed in the business, and how the income from reserves is to go free, when the only thing we have is accumulated losses. I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman in considering this question in the future to consult the Colonial Office. I should like him, and I should like the Treasury fully to apprehend, which I think they do not sufficiently apprehend, the extent to which the whole social and economic fabric of these Colonies is interwoven in the existence of this particular industry. I will give one illustration. One company alone in one of the West Indian Islands, which I happen to know, employs in this industry over 4,000 souls directly, and indirectly over 3,000 more, so that 7,000 persons are depending for their employment, almost for their continued existence, on the fortunes of one single sugar industry. When I review all the points which I have brought to the attention of the right hon. Gentleman, the question of the operation of the Sugar Commission, the question of the repeal of the Brussels Convention, and the question of the general position of the sugar industry, I confess that I think this is a case for very serious consideration by the Government. All I want the right hon. Gentleman to do is to promise that before the tax is re-enacted he will consult with the Colonial Office, and that he will consider carefully representations made to him, and that, if at all possible, something will be devised which will mitigate the rigour of this tax, and meet the special circumstances of these sugar-producing Colonies.

Mr. Peto, who seconded the amendment, said that he only needed to add a few words to the argument of the hon. and gallant Member. He wanted the right hon. Gentleman to see that if this was a question of producing beet sugar in this country it would be already exempt under the exemption of husbandry. It was an industry which had suffered a direct wrong, as the hon. Member had shown, even more severely than the general industry of agriculture in this country. Every argument that applied for leaving agriculture in this country exempt from this

special tax at this time applied with double force to the question of the producing of sugar in our sugar-producing Colonies, the only sugar for our own consumption which was grown within the British Empire at the present time.

Sir J. D. Rees supported the Amendment, the terms of which would, he said, include India. He could quite realise that West Indian sugar was on a different footing from any other industry, perhaps because of the way it had been sacrificed to Imperial needs. He was not sure that a similar case might not be made out for certain Indian industries. As a matter of fact, he had been urged to submit that in regard to indigo, for instance, a similar exemption might be allowed. It was husbandry, and it was in India, and it had been crushed by German competition. He felt that in supporting the case of India he was undoubtedly prejudicing the case of his hon. Friend for the West Indies, but he would not have made these few remarks had he not felt there was no chance of his proposal being accepted.

Mr. Montagu: I am quite willing to agree to the suggestion of my hon. and gallant Friend that this matter should be turned over between now and the next Bill, but I am sorry to say that there is not much prospect of that consideration coming to the conclusion that you can single out one trade or one industry and exempt it altogether from the operations of this Bill, because immediately you have done that I am perfectly certain that in the course of a very few hours or days those concerned with, or having knowledge of, some particular industry will make out a very good case why it should be exempted from the operations of the Bill. The case brought by the hon. and gallant Member is not really on all fours with husbandry in the United Kingdom as stated by the hon. Member for Devon (Mr. Peto). When we come to read the Clauses of this Bill, and the Schedules, and see the very large number of provisions which have been incorporated to ease the taxation of particular cases and of particular industries—the permission to apply a portion of the profits to make good the realised losses of three years; the provision for a depressed industry to go back to four years out of six instead of three years; the provision which allows any trade or any section of a trade to go to a properly constituted board of referees for an increased percentage on its capital—these and a number of other provisions seem to me to suggest that we have devised every means in our power to meet hard cases. When once we embark upon the plan of exempting particular industries from this tax there will be no end of very eloquent appeals, such as has been made by the hon. and gallant Member, for the granting of special consideration to particular industries.

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson: In those circumstances I do not wish to press my Amendment. I only express the hope that on consideration the right hon. Gentleman will find that there is more in the special circumstances of the case than he appears to think at the moment.

#### German Influence in the "Lane."

In the House of Commons on December 8th, Mr. Butcher (U. York) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was aware that the partners in the firm of Tolme and Runge, sugar brokers, of Mincing Lane, were Mr. Hermann Runge, born of German parents in Cuba, Mr. Richard Runge, brother of Hermann Runge, and Mr. J. J. Runge, son of Hermann Runge, born in England and expert adviser on sugar to the Royal Commission on Food Supply; whether the firm of Tolme and Runge was now or was until recently closely associated with the German firm of Runge and Bacmeister, of Hamburg; whether any of the partners in the firm of Tolme and Runge were partners in the firm of Runge and Bacmeister; whether Mr. A. Goldfinger, an Austrian by nationality and not naturalised till 19th August, 1914, was or was until recently a confidential clerk in the employment of Tolme and Runge; whether Mr. E. Lorenz, a German by nationality, but naturalised in this country, was until 31st July, 1915, a confidential clerk of Tolme and Runge; whether Mr. Gattke, a German by nationality, but naturalised in this country, was now

or was until recently the Cashier of Tolme and Runge; whether the firm of Tolme and Runge could properly and accurately be described as a British firm; and whether he would instruct the Royal Commission on Food Supply in future to buy sugar only through firms of British origin and associations.

Mr. McKenna, in reply, said that he did not think it was necessary to go into the question of the nationality of the employees of the firm. It was a British firm, and the fact that it employed two or three clerks of German or Austrian origin was not relevant. The hon. gentleman would find that a great many sugar firms had employed Austrian and German clerks because the main business had in the past been done with Germany and Austria.

Mr. Butcher asked whether it was not a fact that one of the members of the firm was born of German parents in the island of Cuba.

Mr. McKenna said that so far as he had been able to ascertain the parentage in one branch of the family was entirely German three generations back, but the hon. gentleman, if he searched, would find a great many people whose relations three generations back were German. (Laughter.) A great number of sugar firms had foreign names. We were employing a large number of firms, and it was most undesirable to press questions of this kind which would be detrimental to one firm and of advantage to another firm. (Hear, hear.)

#### OBITUARY.

##### MR. EDWARD J. R. WILCOCKS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward J. R. Wilcocks, which took place at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 3rd November, aged 81.

Mr. Wilcocks, who was born at Plymouth and educated at Exeter College, Oxford, entered the Colonial Office when twenty-two years of age, and shortly afterwards was appointed to the Education Department in Bermuda. In 1864 he was transferred to Hong Kong, where he remained until his appointment to British Guiana in 1877 as Principal of the newly established Government Training College for school teachers. The scheme, however, was soon abandoned as a result of one of the usual reformation movements in connection with education in British Guiana. Soon after, the site of the college and its buildings were utilised for the Girls' Reformatory, of which Mr. Wilcocks was appointed superintendent, filling at the same time the office of Secretary of the Poor Law Board, which he retained up to the time of his retirement on pension in 1899. Since that year he has resided mainly in Demerara, where his family settled. His wife predeceased him in 1908, and of his five daughters, four married well-known colonists, the eldest marrying the late Mr. C. P. Barnes, of Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.; the second the late Mr. Hugh A. Woodward, of the British Guiana Civil Service; the third, Sir Chas. T. Cox, K.C.M.G., formerly Government Secretary and Acting Governor of British Guiana; and the fourth the late Mr. Michael McTurk, C.M.G., the youngest daughter remaining unmarried. His character is well summed up in the words of a local Demerara newspaper: "He was a real old English gentleman whose integrity could never be questioned."

##### DR. INMAN WELSH.

Dr. Inman Welsh died, we regret to state, at the Colombo Hospital, Ceylon, of apoplexy, on the 5th November.

Dr. Inman Welsh was senior Surgeon Superintendent of the East Indian Immigration Service. He left England towards the end of last May to join the S.S. *Mullah* at Calcutta on a round voyage to and from Fiji with immigrants. On the return voyage the steamer ran aground at Thursday Island, in the Torres Straits. She was subsequently refloated and taken into Port Moresby for overhaul. Dr. Welsh was evidently on his way home from Calcutta when he was taken ill and died at Colombo.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

BISHOP DE CARTERET was welcomed at a large meeting of the Jamaica Church Aid Association held at the Church House, Westminster, recently.

ALTHOUGH work on the removal of the Culebra slides is proceeding night and day it is not yet possible to predict the probable date of reopening the Panama Canal to traffic.

As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death on December 11th of Mrs. Previtte, wife of Mr. Joseph W. Previtte, of Oak Lodge, Pond Road, Blackheath Park, in the 83rd year of her age. Very deep sympathy will be felt with Mr. Previtte, senior partner of Messrs. Previtte and Co., in his bereavement.

We also have with much regret to record the death of Mr. Isaac Nunes Carvalho, which took place on December 10th, at 49, King's Garden, West End Lane, and of Mr. Walter Kingsford, the Chairman of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, to whose death further reference will be made in next CIRCULAR.

THE complete closing of Germany and Austria and partial cutting off of France and Belgium as sources of supply of raw sugar have affected the profits of Henry Tate and Sons, the well-known refiners, which fell from £345,788 in 1913-14, to £166,993 in 1914-15. The ordinary dividend is reduced from 50 per cent. to 25 per cent., but compares with 18½ per cent. and 23 per cent. for 1911-12 and 1912-13 respectively.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Lieutenant R. Douglas King-Harman, R.N., younger son of Sir Charles King-Harman, K.C.M.G., Moorfields, Nailsea, Somerset, and Lilly, daughter of Mr. Alexander Moffatt, Sheriff Substitute of Stirlingshire, Arnotdale, Falkirk. The father of the prospective bridegroom will be remembered in the West Indies as Auditor-General of Barbados in 1883, and Administrator of St. Lucia from 1897 to 1900.

WITH the fourth son of Mr. F. E. Scott coming over to join the colours there will soon be two Trinidad families each giving four brothers to the Army. Four sons of Mrs. Eckel, widow of the late Mr. Edmund Eckel, for many years Assistant Receiver-General of the Colony, resigned lucrative positions at the outbreak of war and are now serving in the undermentioned regiments:—

Lieut. Cecil Eckel, 6th Dorsetshire Regt.  
Lieut. Percy Eckel, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.  
Private Harold Eckel, 2nd Life Guards, and  
Private Albert Eckel, 2nd Life Guards.

THE Bishop of Hereford, who admits that he is a non-smoker, has incurred the wrath of lovers of the

fragrant weed by suggesting in a letter in the *Times* that they should adopt a patriotic and self-denying ordinance and give up smoking in this time of stress, when the calls for economy are so urgent. In a pertinent reply Mr. Edward Clodd, the well-known philosopher, and father of Mr. Clodd, of Green Island, writes, "What has the Bishop of Hereford to say to this? I smoke Jamaica cigars, the profit on which goes to the Colony—an integral part of the Empire—the duty on which goes to Imperial revenue."

THE West Indian Contingent Fund has benefited to the extent of £37 3s. from the Cambridgeshire Sweep organised by the St. Andrew's Race Club in Grenada, fourteen per cent. of the takings having been presented to it by the stewards. Four tickets in the sweep were also given to the fund, and as "Cheerful," a starter was drawn a further contribution from this source may be expected. The Race Club is fortunate in having such an energetic Hon. Secretary as Mr. H. Astley Berkeley, to whom the Contingent Fund is also indebted.

HISTORIC JAMAICA, an important volume by Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, is published to-day by the West India Committee on behalf of the Institute of Jamaica. It embodies the series of articles regarding the historic sites and monuments in our largest West Indian Colony, which appeared in these columns; besides much additional matter and many new illustrations from sketches by Mrs. Lionel Lee. In the compilation of this work Mr. Cundall consulted upwards of 1,400 books on Jamaica, and when it is stated that the index alone occupies 27 pages of names and places, it will be appreciated what a wealth of material this new volume contains. The price of "Historic Jamaica" is, cloth bound, 5s. net, 5s. 4d. inland, and 5s. 8d. abroad, post free.

#### FROM *Punch*:—

##### "HARD TIMES IN THE WEST INDIES.

"Among the lot of Eatables supplied ex recent arrivals are the following:—

"Lucas Best Fire Bricks. Lucas Best Tapered Bricks. Best Bristol Hand Picked Temper Lime. Steam Pipes 2 to 4" dia. with fittings. Pig Lead. Blue Grit Grindstones. Sheet Copper.—*Daily Gleaner (Jamaica).*"

During the current year 120 new members have been elected to the West India Committee (Incorporated), residing in the following places:—

British Guiana ... ..	14	Bahamas ... ..	2
Trinidad ... ..	13	Nevis ... ..	2
Barbados ... ..	11	Anguilla ... ..	1
Jamaica ... ..	9	Cayman Islands ... ..	1
Grenada ... ..	6	Canada ... ..	1
St. Vincent ... ..	6	Nigeria ... ..	1
Tobago ... ..	6	Uganda ... ..	1
Antigua ... ..	5	London ... ..	15
Montserrat ... ..	5	Country ... ..	7
Dominica ... ..	3	Colombia ... ..	1
St. Kitts ... ..	3	Venezuela ... ..	1
British Honduras ... ..	3		

### THE LONDON LETTER.

LORD DERBY'S great recruiting rally was brought to a close on December 11th, and probably before the CIRCULAR reaches the West Indies it will be known how far it has proved successful. During the closing days of the campaign, which was admirably organised, the scenes of the early weeks of the war were re-enacted at the recruiting stations, aspirants for military honours waiting in queues their turn to be attested. So many men will soon be wearing the official khaki armband of enrolment that obloquy should drive the remaining slackers to enlist. The armband is a simple affair, just a strip of khaki cloth, but it has on it the Imperial Crown in red and its wearer will be justly respected.

THE members of the Stock Exchange are setting a good example to Mincing Lane, whose re-Germanisation after the War is, as was shown in last CIRCULAR, threatened. Following a large meeting a deputation has waited on the Committee of the "House" to urge that no naturalised Germans or Austrians, with a few well-considered exceptions, may be re-elected next March. How different this attitude is from that of those "patriotic" firms in the Lane who have been seriously discussing the terms of a Hamburg f.o.b. contract for German beet sugar.

UNDER the heading, "Blood-red Hands of the German Traders," "A Manchester Man," inspired by the reference in last CIRCULAR to German influence in Mincing Lane, in an article in the *Manchester Courier* of December 3rd, exposes the "well-to-do Manchester men" who are "calmly awaiting business resumption with the heavy-jowled, lying and murderous brutes we are fighting." It seems that the Manchester Chamber has issued a statement regarding the conditions under which trade may still be carried on with enemy firms, and this prompts "Manchester Man" to say "There are, one fears, English firms in Manchester who are longingly awaiting for 'the Day' when they can shake hands with German firms and resume trade with them. The German should be cut off and out of us, and if these firms—really they are German firms—were really earnest patriots they would not thus help Germany to regain her trade ascendancy here and elsewhere over us."

No less than £380,791 was contributed from overseas towards the funds of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, as the result of "Our Day" collections. Towards this Canada contributed £220,731, and Egypt £115,419. Of West Indian contributors British Guiana came first with £3,000. In all £800,000 was collected, and the Hon. Arthur Stanley's announcement to that effect at a meeting of the members of the benefiting societies, held at the Royal Automobile Club on Dec. 9, was cheered to the echo. Lord Lansdowne moved a

vote of thanks to the Oversea Dominions and Colonies for their generosity, and Princess Christian, who, like her daughter Princess Marie Louise, patron of the West Indian Contingent Committee, is much given to good works, thanked the organisers for their successful efforts.

PRESIDING at the annual meeting of the "P. & O." on December 8th, Lord Inchcape, who has succeeded Sir Thomas Sutherland as Chairman, was able to boast that though 50 per cent. of their steamers were in Government service, the Company had not cancelled a single departure since the war began. Owing to their obligation to carry all the mails offered there had been little room for cargo, and they had been under a considerable disability. "But," said his Lordship, "we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing our duty by the Post Office." He added that he felt sure that the proprietors would support the Board in their attitude of reasonableness to His Majesty's Government even at some very considerable loss. In this matter of mail communication India has certainly been much more fortunate than her western namesake!

CONSIDERING the atrocious weather quite a good audience assembled in the picturesque lecture room of the Royal Society of Arts on November 30th, to hear Sir Sydney Olivier's paper on Jamaica, to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR. Among those present were noticed Lady Davson, Lady Swettenham, Miss Douet, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. J. Rippon, and Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. Davson, both of whom contributed towards the discussion. Another speaker was Sir Evan James, the great-great-grandson of a Jamaica property owner, who reminded the audience that Lord Macaulay, when writing about Lord Metcalfe, who was Governor of Jamaica and afterwards Governor-General of India, said that Jamaica was the second jewel in the crown of England—India, of course, being the first.

SIR HENRY BLAKE gave many reminiscences of his period of administration in Jamaica, recalling that whilst he was in the island 1,000 miles of roads, 22½ miles of bridges, and 197 miles of railways were built. Sir Daniel Morris was also reminiscent. Mr. Davson, referring to Sir Sydney's remarks as to the development of Jamaica being so largely due to American capital and brains, said it was impossible to speculate what was going to happen after the war, when economic conditions would be very different, yet he thought English people were already beginning to feel that they could not treat Jamaica, or any other colonies that had sent their sons—white and brown and black—to take their places in the fighting line, on the same plane as those foreign countries whose one idea in the past had been hatred towards England, and whose one idea at present was to wipe Englishmen off the face of the earth.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

MESSRS. HART and TOTTENHAM have recently published, in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, the results of some interesting experiments on the effect of sulphur compounds on plant nutrition. The conclusions arrived at are that the growth of certain plants is much increased by the addition of sulphates. The members of the *Leguminosæ* and *Crucifera* were the ones most affected. In the case of clover the increase in weight obtained amounted to no less than 23 per cent. In general, calcium sulphate was more effective than sodium sulphate, and the special effect of sulphates appeared to be in root development.

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COTTON seed cake, that is to say, the cakes formed from cotton seed after the oil has been extracted by pressure, now forms an important stock food. Instances of poisoning by it, however, have not been uncommon, and have been traced to the presence of a poisonous substance which has been termed gossypol. Messrs. Withers and Carruth, of the North Carolina Experiment Station, have recently been working on the subject. They have found that .24 grm. of gossypol acetate per kilo of live weight is fatal to rabbits.

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CONSIDERABLE agricultural experiments are being carried out officially in Assam. A noticeable one among these, for a description of which we are indebted to *The Indian Trade Journal*, is that of "warping" of rice land; or, in other words, the covering of the land with a layer of soil deposited by water. The land experimented with was covered with a slow current of water laden with soil, until, ultimately, the silt was 3 in. thick. It was then sown with wet rice. The crop is reported not to be very promising, although better than that obtained from the same land the previous year.

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CONSTANT evidence continues to come forward as to the value of heavy application of lime to soils in the direction of increasing the bacterial nitrifying power. This, as Messrs. Allen and Bonazzi point out in the *Ohio Station Record*, is especially noticeable with naturally non-calcareous soils. It was, however, observed in these investigations that the nitrification power of soils does not necessarily agree with their cropping power. But continuous cropping had, as a rule, a marked effect in reducing the nitrifying power of the soils.

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THE same observers found that in soils treated with manganic binoxide and carbonate, nitrification was apparently stimulated. Manganous sulphate, however, had a much lesser effect in stimulating nitrification, and, in some instances, was positively detrimental to it. The action of the two former bodies was attributed to the oxygen directly or indirectly conveyed by them, rather than to any catalytic action by the manganese.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Magdalena* reached England on December 2nd, bringing a heavy mail, including many hundreds of letters for the British West Indies Regiment which have been duly forwarded from the West India Committee Rooms. The usual extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents are given below. It will be noticed that Mr. Cowley raises an interesting point in connection with the Excess Profits tax in relation to the bonus given by a company registered in England to cane growers. No doubt it will be adjusted fairly by the tribunal which has been set up to consider such questions.

#### ANTIGUA—Cane growers and Excess Profits Tax.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, NOVEMBER 11th.—Weather conditions have changed to some extent, rains falling all over the island, though the downfall is not general.

Planters supplying canes to Gunthorpe's factory are very much concerned lest the Excess Profits Tax should affect the bonus to which they become entitled out of the profits of the year, the factory being owned by a company registered in England. In some cases the preliminary payment for canes does not cover the actual working expenses, and if no further payment were made, an actual loss would be shown. Extra taxation imposed locally amounts to \$s. 4d. per ton on factory sugar and 2s. 1d. per ton on molasses.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on November 5th, a resolution was passed expressing regret at the accident to the King and hopes for His Majesty's speedy and complete restoration to health.

Mr. Donald Skinner, eldest son of the Inspector of Schools, was married to Miss M. Auchinleck, eldest daughter of the Auditor-General, on December 2nd. The Red Cross collection on "Our Day" exceeded £170.

#### BARBADOS—Sugar Factory Improvements.

The *Barbados Advocate* dated November 19th states that machinery is on its way to the island for improving the plant at Kent, Staple Grove, and Christchurch, and that the Hon. G. Laurie Pile is effecting improvements at Brighton works for the manufacture of crystals. Moderate showers fell in the first week of November, and were followed by good showers nearly every day. The 1917 crop is being planted largely with B. 6450 Maxwell Plantation, 430 acres, the property of Mr. F. E. Jackman, is again in the market. Airy Hill, in St. John, with seven acres of land, has been purchased by Mr. G. Elliott Sealy for £766, or more than double the appraised value. Subscriptions towards sending a Citizens' Contingent to England already exceed £2,000.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—The Governor's Speech.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, NOVEMBER 12th.—Plantation "Haags Bosche," on the east bank of the Demerara River, the property of the late Mr. H. Greig, has been sold to the Demerara Co., Ltd., for \$40,000.

The Annual Session of the Combined Court was opened on November 11th. In his Speech the Governor congratulated the colony on its freedom from the disastrous effects of war, and pointed out that very little increased taxation has had to be imposed. The greater part of this, he said, falls on the section of the community which has benefited greatly by the extraordinary rise in price of the products manufactured from the sugar cane, and on the large class of rice growers which had benefited by the increased value of rice.

November 1st was observed as Red Cross Day, with satisfactory results, over £3,000 having been collected.

We have had some good showers during the week, which have been of great benefit to the water supply of Georgetown. The Estates have had some showers, but generally it is still too dry.

**GRENADA—The St. Andrew's Race Club.**

A correspondent writes under date November 6th:—"In response to Lord Lansdowne's appeal on behalf of the Red Cross Society, fetes are being held in the various parishes. St. George's cleared over £150; St. Andrew's already exceeds £500. The St. Andrew's fete, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith, was held in perfect weather on Thursday, November 4th, at Telescope Pasture, by kind permission of Mr. G. A. H. Rennie, the stands of the St. Andrew's Race Club being lent for the occasion. The programme consisted of a collection of Red Cross envelopes, to be handed in to Lady Haddon-Smith, which realised the handsome sum of £100. A sale of gifts of stock and poultry accounted for another £80. Side shows, sports, a bar, a tea stall, a fancy and sweet stall, and a grand raffle made up a total of about £300. In addition to the above, the Hon. Graham Lang has been making a collection of cacao from the estates and small proprietors throughout the parish, the equivalent to thirty bags having been received. It is understood that the Royal Mail Co. have consented to take this cacao free of charge. It should therefore realise at least £200, making a grand total of £500 from St. Andrews.

**JAMAICA—New Colonial Bank branches.**

**THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.**—The weather during October was variable, but generally hot. The maximum temperature was 92.5 deg. F., the minimum 70.8 deg. F., and the mean 80 deg. F. The total rainfall was 12.78 inches, or one and a half times the average. The greatest fall on one day was 4.94 inches—on the 31st. The maximum velocity of the wind was 22 miles an hour, on the 1st. Distant lightning was frequent, and thunderstorms occurred on six days.

The Archbishop of the West Indies has returned to Kingston from the hills, greatly improved in health. The annual meeting of the Jamaica Tourist Association took place on the 18th, and Mr. R. W. Bryant was re-elected President. The Association starts its financial year 1915-1916 with a balance of £84 8s. 9d., and will carry on its work without interruption, £158 2s., the lowest unavoidable expenditure for the year, being practically assured.

The Jamaica Government Railway receipts for the month of September show a decrease of £5,318 as compared with the corresponding month in 1914. The revenue for the six months ended September 30th was £79,274, or £27,467 less than the corresponding month last year. The election of the Mayor and Vice-Chairman of the City Council took place on the 11th, and resulted in the election of the Hon. H. A. L. Simpson and Mr. A. Da Costa to the respective positions.

The Colonial Bank is extending its sphere of operations in the island, and branches are to be opened immediately at Falmouth, St. Ann's Bay, and Port Maria.

Recruiting for the Jamaica Contingent continues, and over 1,100 men have actually been enrolled. The first Contingent to go forward will be composed of 550 men under command of Major W. D. Neish. Trafalgar Day was celebrated throughout the island by an effort to raise funds for the British Red Cross Society. The result of the sale of badges will be a substantial addition to the funds of the Society.

"Jamaica I." is an accomplished fact, sufficient money having been collected for Jamaica's first aeroplane. The cost of the aeroplane, which should soon be in the hands of the War Office for service against the enemy, has been cabled to London.

A fund to provide a "Jamaica" bed in a hospital in England for paralysed soldiers has been opened by Miss Douet, a Red Cross nurse just back on furlough from the front. The War Funds stand as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	7,384	12	4
Jamaica War Contingent Women's Fund	2,111	5	9
Jamaica War Contingent "Flag Day" Fund	1,553	3	4
Jamaica Aeroplane Fund	2,445	12	4
Give-a-Cigar Fund	264	1	2
Trafalgar Day Red Cross Fund	115	0	0
Miss Douet Hospital Fund	389	8	2
Suffering Jews in Poland Fund (2nd appeal)	168	11	0

**MONTSERRAT—A short cotton crop expected**

MR. K. P. PENCHOEN, NOVEMBER 12th.—We hear with regret that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has not been able to make satisfactory arrangements with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to continue a service from England to the West Indies, and we are anxiously awaiting further developments.

Dusting for cotton worm and a dry October have seriously affected the bearing of the cotton, and we shall have a short crop. The chief feature of interest for the fortnight was the arrival of His Honour Mr. Leslie Jarvis and Mrs. Jarvis by the R.M.S. *Barima* on the 6th inst. We are glad to have Mr. Jarvis back as our Commissioner. Mr. R. H. K. Dyett, who had been acting as Commissioner here for 3½ months, and Mrs. Dyett returned to Antigua by the same steamer.

**ST. KITTS—The launch *Windrush* subsidised again.**

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, NOVEMBER 10th.—As the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. have unhesitatingly put business before sentiment, and cut their contract, these islands should certainly do the same. As stated in the CIRCULAR, we should get our mails by other channels with fair regularity, and with falling revenues it certainly seems inadvisable to continue a large annual subsidy to the company for an intercolonial service which cannot be of much use to us without the regular home connection. The Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 8th inst. decided to ask the local Government for information as to the existing or future mail facilities, and whether the Intercolonial Subsidy was to be continued or not.

I am glad to be able to report on the whole a continuance of favourable weather for the 1916 crops. On the other hand, we have had too much rain for the cotton crop, which will prove to be disappointing this season.

An important meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 31st ult., when the financial condition of the Presidency resulting from the shrinkage in Customs receipts, etc., was laid before the Council by the Acting Administrator. The local Contingent expenses, about £1,350, have also to be met, and in order to counterbalance a deficit of about £5,000, the following additional export taxes were decided on:—6s. 8d. per ton crystals, 3s. 4d. per ton muscovados, 9d. per puncheon factory molasses, and 1s. 6d. per puncheon muscovado molasses; also an increase on the duty on flour to an amount equivalent to the preference now given to Canada. These to come into effect from the 1st December, 1915. The calm atmosphere of the local Council Chamber was disturbed by the strenuous opposition of the unofficial Members of the House to the renewal of the subsidy to the motor-boat *Windrush* (the motor-boat which plies between St. Kitts and Nevis). Their views were ignored and the vote carried by the Government. An ordinance to regulate the planting of cotton was withdrawn, however, owing to strong opposition.

There is considerable activity in evidence in connection with the various relief funds. The Special Red Cross Fund at present stands at £163 4s. 1d.; of this, £36 9s. 2d. comes from Anguilla.

Mr. R. A. Hardtmann, of Stapleton's Estate, has been in very poor health for some time, but I am glad to hear he is now improving, and I hope we shall soon see him about again.

**TOBAGO—The increased freight charges.**

MR. G. DAVID HATT, NOVEMBER 12th.—The weather has been good for all purposes; bright sunshine with 4.87 inches of rain recorded at the Botanic station. The rainfall there for October was 10.41 inches, as against 6.01 inches for the corresponding period last year, and 7.75 inches for 1913. The first of the tobacco crop is harvested, and cacao is now coming in "strong" to market; prices keep satisfactory.

A decker known as "King," a cobbler and ex-policeman, committed suicide by drowning from the *Belize* as she left this harbour on the evening of the 29th October.

Another batch of accepted recruits sailed on the 5th inst. to join the next Contingent from Trinidad. As a



recruiter, the Rev. Theodor L. Clemens, an Englishman who has laboured here for twenty-seven years, easily heads the list with his fiftieth recruit, amongst whom are the three stalwart sons of a widow, Mrs. Desvignes, a member of his congregation. Mr. Clemens' only son is a surgeon on H.M.S. *Defence*. It gives pleasure to know that Captain "Jack" Thorne is amongst the officers in control of the B.W.I.'s. As Inspector of Police in Tobago he was very popular with all classes, and deservedly so. We welcome back to the island Mrs. Alefounder and her children, owners of Studley Park and Montrose Estates, on which cacao, sugar cane, and coco-nuts are extensively cultivated. We regret the death of Mr. Agar (Dominica), with whom I twice travelled. Mails from England via New York arrived in 31 days, by the *Serrana* in 28, the *Magdalena* in 16, and the *Professor* in 24. We note with regret the increase in freight charges by the Royal Mail and other associated lines of steamers, coming at a time when necessity compels larger importations of textiles, boots and shoes, leather goods, glassware, etc., than formerly from New York. With its not excessive all-round shipping charges, the increased rates by the British lines is peculiar from a business point of view. The complete linking-up of British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados, and the chain of smaller islands could be easily brought about by fast steamers subsidised by the Canadian Government on the termination of the existing contract for the Inter-colonial service. The fixed dates of arrival and departure at headquarters need not be altered, but simply a slight shortening of the hours in the various ports of call.

Deep-sea fish for table is plentiful, and the health of the island is good. The heavy rains last month did little damage to our excellent roads and substantial bridges, thanks to an efficient Public Works Department.

#### TRINIDAD—A visit to the River Estate.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, NOVEMBER 17th.—After all these years of regular communication, it is serious to contemplate an intermittent mail service, but there seems no help for it. At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Webster, the representative of the Royal Mail Company, assured the members that even with the proposed £4,000 subsidy for each voyage, a loss of about £1,500 would be incurred. It was decided, however, that so far as the Chamber is concerned, its previous opinion must stand, and that pending better times we must remain content with such mail communication as circumstances will permit.

On the invitation of Professor Carmody, about forty members of the Naparima District Agricultural Society, with their Chairman, Sir Norman Lamont, recently visited the model Cacao and Experimental Plantation of the Government at Diego Martin. It is known as the River Estate, and has been under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture for some years. As you are aware, that Department has been the object of some criticism, but I do not think there can be any two opinions regarding the value and the excellence of the work done at River. The proceedings commenced with an address of the most practical kind by the Professor, afterwards illustrated in the experimental plots themselves, where a series of carefully recorded manual and other experiments have been conducted for sufficient time in many cases to serve the best purposes of the agriculturist. Professor Carmody and his able staff are to be congratulated on results alike creditable to the Department of Agriculture and useful to the planter. Interest in the field was succeeded by very bountiful hospitality in the house, and our San Fernando friends were agreed that they had enjoyed one of the outings of their lives, an opinion which the writer, who had the privilege of being a guest on the occasion, ventures to endorse.

The Legislative Council at its last sitting voted £12,000 per annum to provide for pensions and other charges of dependents of our troops at the front. Another lot of 100 men who, I think, will be found unusually fine specimens of West Indian humanity, leave to-day to add to the number of the Public Contingent already at home. Recruiting is going on briskly, and has been stimulated by the happy and contented tone of letters from the men at

Seaford. It has been most inspiring of late to see our newly-enrolled men leaving barracks each evening for an hour or two leave, marching with a fine swing to Port of Spain to the time of their own popular songs, every one of them looking happy and hopeful, and proud of his job. A second instalment of the Merchants' Contingent is now hard at the work of preparation, and will be *en route* before very long.

At the Municipal Council elections, the Hon. Dr. Prada was chosen Mayor for the second year, an honour which he has fully earned for the manner in which he has not only conducted the proceedings of the Council, but for his attention to every detail in connection with objects for the welfare of the Borough during the past year. Elections for Councillors showed once again how contented or how slack are the Burgesses of Port of Spain. Up to date, no man nominated has had to face a contested election. If things go on in the Council as well as they have done hitherto, it will not be due to any interest evinced by the free and independent electorate. At San Fernando things are more lively, and few Councillors get in unopposed. This, however, does not apply to the Mayor. It is said of one Mayor, who filled the position for fifteen years, that in the end he was kept on because it was feared that if deprived of the office he would die of grief. However, this cannot be said of the present excellent holder of the position, the Hon. J. D. Hobson, who, to the satisfaction of everyone in the Southern Borough, was re-elected the other day for the eighth time. Arima also put in once again for the high office that respected townsman Mr. W. Beckles, a most worthy son of the soil.

The Savings Bank report shows Indian deposits steadily increasing. These amounted at the end of the financial year to £130,769. The *Ganges* has arrived with 279 immigrants. No births or deaths were recorded on the voyage.

Mr. F. E. Scott, of the firm of F. J. Scott & Co., has just sent his fourth son to join the Army.

#### TRINIDAD CACAO SHIPMENTS.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of October were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs
United Kingdom ... ..	58,744
B.N. America ... ..	39,500
British Guiana ... ..	500
Argentine ... ..	20,000
United States America ... ..	254,316
<b>Total for October</b> ... ..	<b>373,140</b>
Shipped previously ... ..	43,884,913
<b>Total from 1st January</b> ... ..	<b>44,258,053</b>
To same date, 1914 ... ..	60,745,517
" " 1913 ... ..	45,780,272
" " 1912 ... ..	40,143,025
" " 1911 ... ..	42,127,478
" " 1910 ... ..	49,332,789
" " 1909 ... ..	41,367,387
" " 1908 ... ..	37,020,821
" " 1907 ... ..	35,052,616

THE amounts received from the West Indies for the "Our Day" Collection for the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana ... ..	3,000	0	0
The Bahamas ... ..	2,655	14	9
Jamaica ... ..	1,700	0	0
Dominica ... ..	113	7	9
St. Lucia ... ..	506	0	0
Barbados ... ..	780	18	0
Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	780	15	0
Antigua ... ..	178	17	3
Montserrat ... ..	34	17	8

## OUR LIBRARY.

**Susan Proudleigh.** By H. G. Delisser. (Methuen & Co., price 6/-). Mr. Herbert Delisser is not only a writer of great natural talent trained by hard exercise—(years ago the work turned out on the Jamaica Press by him and other young reporters, such as the late Mr. W. B. Parker—so intrepid and so ill-equipped a journalist, so engaging a personality—used to astonish me by its cleverness and energy, making the *Daily Gleaner* a miracle to those who could realise at what disadvantages it was produced)—he has also an artist's eye and ear, and a pleasant, cunning habit of humour. But the thing which puts his books "Jane's Career" and "Susan Proudleigh" just over the line and into a different class from those of Mr. MacFall and Mrs. Fraser, as descriptive representations of Jamaican popular life—equally gifted or better equipped as those writers may be in the other respects—is the fact that he is himself a Jamaican. Jamaicans may not love his books, or applaud his choice of aspects for portrayal in Jamaican society; but these two books seem to me to be, within their scope, by far the most correct presentation of those aspects that is to be found on the scale of a novel concerned with West Indian life. I myself thought Mr. MacFall's book "Jezebel Pettifer" when I read it an unpleasant libel. I cannot say that Mr. Delisser's Jamaicans are conventionally praiseworthy; but they do not in the same way offend me, and I do not think they need to be apologised for any more than I think their prototypes need to be apologised for when I am among them. Mrs. Fraser, in her "Study in Colour" and other Jamaican sketches, shows herself a delicate artist, not irritating, like Mr. MacFall; her work is sympathetic, and yet it is the work of a quizzing alien. Mr. Delisser's work, even when he is poking good-natured fun at our dear Kingston folk, never gives me that feeling—it is all curiously matter-of-fact and real. It is not meant to make you laugh at these people, and though it is exceedingly entertaining, it does not do so. I fancy that Mr. Delisser has it in mind to produce a number of records of Jamaican contemporary life such as those he has given us in "Jane" and "Susan." They are much better stuff than the more ambitious attempt to reconstruct the drama of the Jamaica Rebellion, which he published a short time ago in the Island. There are many more such pictures to be done before we can judge of the importance of his work as a whole. "Susan Proudleigh" is but one piece of such a mosaic. Susan herself is a Kingston girl of a class that has pretensions to dignity and respectability; her father was a skilled artisan, now crippled. For a young woman of her standard the only way to ensure a decent life is (as Mrs. Warren puts it in "Mrs. Warren's Profession") "to find some man to be good to her," and the force of that axiom—whether it is to be interpreted matrimonially or not—is even more obviously paramount in Jamaican economic conditions than it is in those of London. This path is not chosen by Susan out of licentiousness, but out of considerations which have much rather the aspect of virtues. There is no taint of leering suggestiveness in this book—or in any of Mr. Delisser's books. Susan's fortunes lead her to Colon, where the big bead of a marriage is threaded on the string of her less risky domestic experiments. Colon, like the streets of Kingston, is admirably described. I can always see and hear Jamaica when I am reading Mr. Delisser, and I see and feel and smell Colon in these pages. To outsiders the negro is comic because of his unexpected logic along lines on which it does not occur to Europeans to pursue their own logic. If you are not familiar with the West Indies, you may follow this clue in observing how Susan and her family and friends both talk and act. If you are not aware of it, and unguardedly dispute with a negro, he may turn the tables on you very formidably on promises you had left out of mind. But I have no space to follow Mr. Delisser in this exercise of his humour, nor to do justice to the fact that he has, with great restraint of description, and entirely by skill of style, created a group of characters whose individual-

ties stick in one's memory. There is one very fine and true stroke, drawn quite simply by Mr. Delisser, in connection with the death (by an accident on the Canal works) of Susan's husband. For the African, human friendliness is deeper than sexual love. So, when Susan's former lover and still pursuer, vain creature that he was, comes on Mackenzie dying, no flash of satisfaction (such as any such unregenerate, if a European, would surely have felt at her freedom) strikes his consciousness; only passionate sorrow at the fate of an old friend, and energetic impulse to try to save him if possible. And that is just as true a part of Jones and his associates in this book as are their superficial perversities.

SYDNEY OLIVIER.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

The Directors, in their report for the year ended June 30th last, state that the Company's work during the year was very successful, owing partly to the high prices obtained for sugar, and partly to the crop being much larger than any previous one at Ste. Madeleine. The bulk of the sugar was sold to the British Government at £17 f.o.b. The canes crushed amounted to 195,493 tons, being 136,730 tons from the Company's estates and 58,763 tons from farmers, and the sugar produced was 17,067 tons, equal to a yield of 8.73 per cent. on the canes. This unusually low yield was a common feature throughout the West Indies during the year. In Cuba and Porto Rico the factories took one to two tons more cane to make a ton of sugar than in any year since the introduction of modern machinery. This was apparently to a large extent due to the absence of cool nights, which are required during crop time for the proper ripening of the Cane. Owing to this, and to the introduction of implement tillage, and to a larger acreage being pen-manured, the crop from the Company's estate canes was good, viz.: 25 tons per acre, which is a record crop for Ste. Madeleine, and 29 per cent. above its average for the last fourteen years. It is hoped similar returns may be maintained in normal years.

Though much of the Company's plant is modern, the Directors have had anxiety over some important parts which are old and wearing out, and must be renewed as soon as possible at a heavy outlay.

The Profit and Loss Account, after providing £25,000 for the necessary renewal of machinery, shows a surplus of £55,302 13s., which with £624 10s. 5d. brought forward from 1914 makes a total of £55,927 3s. 5d. The Directors recommended the following dividend distributions: (1) 6 per cent. on the paid-up Capital in accordance with the terms of Article 156; and (2) 1/6 per share on the nominal amount of the shares issued. These dividend payments will amount to £17,347 10s., and there will remain a sum of £38,579 13s. 5d. to be carried forward, which is subject to any liability that may arise in respect of the Excess Profits Tax. The transfer of the properties to the Company has been duly completed, and the 50,000 fully-paid shares have been allotted in exchange therefor.

Owing to the war, the consideration of the question of calling up the balance on partly-paid shares has been deferred. The cane farmers' crop in the island increased from 136,000 tons three years ago to 325,000 tons, and the Directors, while appreciating that it is desirable to have an increasing proportion of the population settled on the land, think that caution is necessary lest the supply of farmers' canes exceed the capacity of the factories to take them off. In conclusion, the Directors state that the actions of the Trinidad Government during the year towards the sugar industry have caused them anxiety. They raised an Emergency (War) Tax by an export duty on agricultural produce, and so apportioned it that the tax payable by the Company on its exports amounted to £5,639 4s. 7d., whereas if the Company's produce had been cacao of the same value, and showing a larger profit,

the tax would only have been approximately £1,000. Further, the Government passed an ordinance under which sugar plantations had to retain in the island 25 per cent. of their output, although it was manifest that this was enormous in excess of the local requirements of the island. This action was peculiarly hard, as its plant was not capable of making sugar fit for local consumption, it having always confined its operations to the manufacture of refining crystals. In July the Government reduced the embargo to 10 per cent., and it was then arranged that the Company should be allowed to export the balance of its sugar on condition that it bought sugar to the value of £30,000 from the plantations which made for local consumption and retained that in the island. The embargo has since been entirely removed. The Directors hope that such actions may not be repeated, for unequal taxation and unnecessary interference with trade, without benefit to anyone, takes away from the feeling of security for capital invested in the colony.

The share capital consists of 50,000 fully-paid £1 shares and 100,000 £1 shares, of which 3,250 are fully paid and 96,750 10s. paid. The Reserve Fund stands at £33,788 1s. 9d., including £25,000 at credit of the Factory Renewals Account.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING

Presiding at the Annual General Meeting on December 3rd, Mr. G. Moody Stuart referred to the soundness of the undertaking, and said that the really satisfactory feature of the year was that 25 tons of cane per acre were raised. The cane juice, however, as throughout the islands, was unusually poor. The juice was bad where there was ample rain, moderate rain, or too little rain, and where the crops were large, average, or small. Owing to this poor juice our production of sugar was slightly under 2½ tons per acre, whereas the same weight of cane with normal juice would have given 2½ tons. They ought to get along comfortably with 2½ to 2½ tons, against 1½ to 1½ tons per acre from beet in Austria and Germany, and he believed that they could do so in normal seasons. Had the juice been right, they would have had £40,000 more—to divide with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The cost of production worked out at £12 10s. per ton, and of this he calculated that approximately £1 10s. was due to war conditions. Twenty per cent. extra was paid for farmers' canes because of war prices for sugar, and this really amounted to 38 per cent. extra if their inferiority were taken into account. The cost of factory and estate stores was greatly enhanced by war prices, while there was also the Trinidad War Tax and some other smaller items. The cost, apart from these war extras, might thus be taken approximately at £11 per ton—a high figure largely due to the low yield of sugar.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts having been moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. C. Gurney, and carried unanimously, proceedings were brought to a close with the re-election of the auditors and a vote of thanks to the staff.

ACCORDING to Dr. Shipley the anopheles (*maculipennis*) mosquito has been found in the frozen snows of Siberia. In England they are frequently found in old out-houses, deserted cellars, and unused farm buildings. They have generally left their winter quarters by May, when they begin to lay their eggs, and this they do early in the morning. In temperate climates there are three or four generations during the summer, the latest being through September and October. It has been calculated that if the number of eggs laid by the female be 150, the numbers of the descendants by the fourth generation would amount to over thirty millions. This may account for the enormous numbers in which mosquitoes are found in places like Finland, Siberia, and other northern climates.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE** continues at 5 per cent. as from the 8th August, 1914. Old War Loan is quoted at 89½, New War Loan at 97½, and Consols at 58½.

**SUGAR**—As regards the United Kingdom there has been no circumstance of note to comment on in connection with the market since our last Summary. The year's figures are not going to show a big reduction in consumption, and Mr. McKenna and Mr. Runciman, in addressing a meeting of Trade Unions delegates on the subject of thrift, spoke very strongly on this point. But surely sugar consumption is the last thing to deprecate. It is the cheapest and best form of imparting muscular energy, and an increased consumption of sugar should be encouraged. Unfortunately, when money is plentiful with them, the mind of the working classes goes in the direction of meat. While a certain amount of meat is necessary for the maintenance of the machinery of the body, it is a costly method of supplying energy. A pound of sugar supplies more than twice as much muscular energy as a pound of meat at a quarter of the cost. Again, it is a recognised fact that when those accustomed to alcohol give it up, a craving for sugar ensues, which is nature's way of pointing to the right dietetic path. Unfortunately, however, as regards sugar, 85 per cent. of our supplies come from foreign countries, which means the United Kingdom being deprived of its equivalent in gold. Did our sugar altogether come from our Colonies, and there is no reason why it should not if Great Britain only gave the Colonial sugar industry fair treatment, there would be no occasion whatever for economy under this head.

The Board of Trade Returns for November show that 133,021 tons of sugar were imported during the month. Of these 7,238 tons came from Holland, 5,732 tons of white sugar and 32,363 tons refining from Java, 46,018 tons of white sugar from the United States, 5,317 tons of white and 16,046 tons of other sugar from Mauritius, and 6,357 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana. Eleven months of the year have now passed, and the consumption figures do not indicate that the summer decrease in consumption is being maintained. The consumption for the three months ending June 30th, 1915, was at the rate of 174,406 tons per month as against 166,815 tons for the same period in 1913, the year immediately before the War. For the next three months—the summer months—there was a great diminution, the monthly average being 130,355 tons for this period in 1915 as compared with 171,584 tons in 1913. This falling off was probably due to the lessened use of sugar for fruit preserving, and also partly to the great scarcity of direct consumption sugar, which caused invisible stocks to be run down to a very low point. For the last two months, October and November, the consumption averaged 142,956 tons a month, as against 142,654 tons as an average for the corresponding months in 1913.

During the first nine months of the present year the amount of sugar used in brewing in the United Kingdom was 100,450 tons—96,313 tons in England and Wales, 3,772 tons in Scotland and 365 tons in Ireland.

For the year ending 31st March, 1915, the imports into Canada amounted to 302,450 tons. Of this, 166,711 tons were admitted under the preferential tariff; 48,011 tons from British Guiana; 85,855 tons from the British West India Islands; 31,553 tons from Fiji, and 1,299 tons of over 16 D.S. from the United Kingdom. The quantity imported under the special refiners' arrangement, now abolished, was 8,074 tons.

According to Messrs. Willett and Gray, who have received the information directly from the Sugar Commission, 305,000 tons of Cuban new crop sugar, January/March delivery, have been purchased for the United Kingdom.

It is now certain that the Russian crop will not exceed 1,590,000 tons. With none too large stocks on hand at the commencement of crop, and with the increased consumption due to the vodka prohibition, it is quite on the cards that Russia will have to import sugar from outside. In this connection it is interesting to note that enquiries have been made in New York as to American granulated for Russia.

The 1915-16 world's sugar production is estimated by Messrs. Willett and Gray as being 16,852,000 tons as against 18,777,567 tons in 1913-14. Deducting the European sugar figures, the amounts are 11,072,000 tons as against 10,534,462 tons, an increase in round numbers of 434,000 tons, of which 95,000 tons is supplied by the United States beet industry. The total deficiency on the pre-war figures is 1,925,000 tons.

The Java crop is concluded at 1,275,000 tons, or 28,000 tons below last year's figures. The Louisiana crop is not expected to realise more than 120,000 tons, 94,000 tons less than last year. The coming crop in Barbados promises to be a bumper one, although it is not likely to reach the 80,000 hhds. figure of 1890. The Cuban crop is concluded at 2,592,000 tons, practically the same as was obtained last year. The reports of the prospects of the approaching crop continue to be very satisfactory, and 3,200,000 tons is now spoken of as being possible. But there is every reason to believe that reaping will be considerably delayed. As pointed out in the last Summary, the weather had induced prolonged cane growth, with consequent unripe juice. The orders for machinery also have been on a large scale, and those which would have been placed in Germany, had it not been for the War, were handed over to American firms, with considerable delay in execution. Mr. Himely indeed, states that orders for no less than 100 mills it is presumed single mills, not entire mill plants—have been placed with one firm alone. These causes, coupled also with full planters' pockets, are sure to give rise to a late start of crop, unless the heavy stand of canes creates a fear that the crop may not be taken off if the grinding is delayed.

Considerable misapprehension exists in the West Indies as the result of the recent drop in the selling price of sugar by the Sugar Commission, and fears are expressed that this means that the producer will have to pay a great part of the extra duty recently imposed on sugar. This is in no way the case. The real position is this. At the commencement of the operations of the Sugar Commission large prices were paid for its enormous purchases which were quite unwarranted by the position of the world's supplies of sugar. An import prohibition was consequently necessary in order that it might sell the sugar at its own figure and secure a profit. Later on, the purchases of the Commission were conducted on a more business basis, and, as the result, it found itself in a position to lower the wholesale price by 3s. a cwt., and still obtain a fair profit. This was coincident with the imposition of a higher duty, but was in no way an abatement of duty. The consumer here pays the whole of the duty, but he does not pay the 3s. super-charge which he had to pay formerly on account of the Sugar Commission's high-priced buyings, because the price of sugar in the United Kingdom is now more approximated to the natural price.

The London crystallised grocery market has been very flat, owing to shortage of arrivals and the difficulty of getting them from the docks when they do arrive. No sales were held in the earlier part of the fortnight, but at one on the 10th December 280 tons met with great demand at previous rates, Trinidad selling at 30s. 3d. to 31s. 3d. Syrups and muscovados fetched higher prices, some Surinam syrup realising 27s. 6d. to 27s. 9d., and Jamaica muscovado 27s. to 27s. 6d.

At to-day's auction there was a quiet demand at previous rates for crystallised, syrups and muscovado being in request at unchanged prices.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to December 4th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	51,694	30,301	37,362	25,886	34,769 Tons.
Deliveries ...	45,824	36,698	28,171	28,659	34,917 ..
Stock (Dec. 4)	11,879	6,555	11,031	1,697	4,217 ..

The New York market has fluctuated, and prices which were quoted in the last Summary as \$5.02 for duty paid 96° rose to \$5.20. A decline then took place, and the value was yesterday \$4.64. In sympathy, granulated rose from \$5.90 to \$6.05. Demands from Europe for granulated and cubes, the probable late starting of the Cuban crop, the hypotheication for Europe of a good deal of the last of the

old crop Cuban sugars, the comparative failure of the Louisiana crop, and, lastly, but by no means leastly, the difficulty as regards freight, have all tended to make the question of present United States sugar supplies a difficult one.

**RUM**—The market for proof sorts is fully steady. No spot sales have been made lately on account of the difficulty of obtaining samples from the docks, but sales for shipment at quiet rates have been reported. The market for Jamaica rum is quiet at late current prices.

The Board of Trade returns show that 9,125,000 proof gallons of rum were imported for eleven months of the present year, of which 3,996,115 gallons were for home consumption. The exports for the period were 496,986 proof gallons, and the stocks in hand on the 30th November 8,600,000 proof gallons.

The stocks in London on December 4th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	6,636	7,422	6,807	7,701	9,220 Pans.
Demerara ...	4,356	5,557	5,895	5,464	4,286 ..
Total, all kinds ...	22,249	19,311	20,045	21,778	21,749 ..

**CAOAO**—The market has been very flat, and there has been very little doing. At auction on the 7th inst., 3,982 bags were offered, 77 of which were British West Indian, but in the absence of demand were all withdrawn, and the usual public sales are not taking place to-day. Private sales have been made at prices slightly below those given in last Summary.

The Board of Trade returns report 8,721,319 lbs. of cacao as having been imported last month, as against 9,952,044 lbs. in November last year. The exports were 9,032,002 lbs. and 5,683,748 lbs. respectively.

The stocks in London on December 4th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	8,845	6,999	10,660	5,189	4,816 Bags.
Grenada ...	2,644	2,826	2,966	2,659	5,851 ..
Total, all kinds ...	104,098	63,653	70,232	74,766	90,581 ..

**COTTON**—Since our last report the sales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been confined to 60 bales, including Anguilla, 14½d.; St. Kitts and St. Vincent 17d.; and stains 9½d. to 9¾d.

The quantity of West Indian cotton imported for the year up to December 9th was 4,802 bales.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil—Distilled is lower, with fair sales at 6s. 6d. per lb. There is no demand for hand-pressed. Lime Juice Raw is in better demand, and good Jamaica has sold at 2s. 9d. per gallon. There are no sales of Dominica to report. There have been no sales of concentrated.

**SPICES**—There has been a good demand for Nutmegs at advanced prices. 100/80's may be quoted at 5½d. to 7½d.; 120/100's at 5d. to 5½d.; and 140/120's at 4½d. to 5d. The market for Mace has been steady. The value of good to fine is 2s. to 2s. 4d.; of red to good 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; of blood red to medium red 1s. to 1s. 5d.; and of broken 7d. to 11d. Pimento is quoted at, fair to good, 2½d. to 2¾d.; ordinary to middling, 2½d. to 2¾d. Ginger—Stocks are small, and are being held for full prices, at which a small business is being done. Ordinary to medium Jamaica is quoted at 60s. to 67s. 6d., with 67s. to 75s. for good to fine.

**ARROWROOT**—Sales of 450 barrels St. Vincent have been reported at 2½d. to 3½d.

**RUBBER**—The markets for all kinds of rubber are strong, and the prices quoted in last Summary have been improved upon considerably. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 3s. 6½d., and smoked sheet at 3s. 5½d. The value of Pine Hard Para may be taken as being 3s., with soft at 2s. 9d.

The imports of rubber into the United Kingdom for November amounted to 6,629 tons. The total quantity imported for the eleven months of 1915 has been 73,180 tons, as against 59,680 tons in 1914. The quantities exported for the same periods were 59,000 tons and 47,510 tons respectively.

**BALATA**—West India sheet steady, with small sales passing on the spot. Sellers' landed price, 2s. 6d.; buyers' 2s. 5d. Venezuelan block is firmer. A fair business has been done with buyers at 2s. 1d., sellers 2s. 1½d., landed prices.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Hon. A. G. Bell	Hon. H. Ferguson	Mr. A. E. Perkins
Mr. E. Bonyon	Mr. P. I. Guppy	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. A. T. Haconind	Mr. H. D. Scudamore
Mr. A. Campbell	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. F. B. B. Spand
Dr. C. F. Castor	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. A. E. Morrish	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. Arthur E. Clodd	Mr. T. W. O'Neal	Mr. Wm. Young

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne" Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 Mr. T. L. Dunstire, c/o T. J. Mason, Esq., 35, Rood Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. J. Freland Foute, Thornton House, Wisboro' Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Ardath, Esher, Surrey.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.  
 Mr. S. H. Taylor, Regent Palace Hotel, Regent Street, W.  
 Mr. J. B. Waith, Baybrook, West Hill Road, Bourne-mouth.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Divi- dent	Latest Quotations.	Prices Dec. 13
4 %	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	95
3 3/4 %	Habardos 3 3/4 % Redeemable 1923-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1921-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94 1/2
4 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1934	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-40	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75 1/2
4 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-41	95
4 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 %	Trinidad 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	74
6 %	The Colonial Bank	99 1/4
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	86
5 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	88 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	90 1/2
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 3 % Debentures	94 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	12 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	97 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	61 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	3 1/2
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	3 1/2
—	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15% paid)	3
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-30
—	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	100-105
—	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	70-75
—	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
1 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	31 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. 1st Pref.	51
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	51
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	90 1/2

**STEAMER SAILINGS.**

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland, Canada and the United States for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 20	"Direct" Line	Dec	London	A. B. E. F. G. I. K. L. M. N.
24	Leyland Line	Syltanium	Liverpool	A. B. E.
27	"Direct" Line	Crown of Leon	Glasgow	A. B. E.
27	Elders & Fyffes	Canito	Bristol	D.
Jan. 10	"Direct" Line	Coronado	London	A. B. E. F. G. I. K. L. M. N.

FROM HOLLAND				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 31	Royal Dutch	Oranje Nassau	Amsterdam	B. E.

FROM CANADA				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 31	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chaleur	Halifax, N.S.	A. B. E. F. G. I. K. L. M. N.
Jan. 14		Chignecto		

A. Barbados; B. British Guiana; C. British Honduras; D. Jamaica; E. Trinidad; F. Antigua; G. St. Kitts; H. Nevis; I. Montserrat; K. Dominica; L. Grenada; M. St. Lucia; N. St. Vincent.

The folders of the principal shipping companies whose steamers call at West Indian ports can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS FROM THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, Tilbury, London, December 5th:—

Hon. & Mrs. A. G. Bell	Rev. Father Hornyold	Mr. A. N. Pereira
C. M. G.	Miss Temple Johnson	Mr. W. Rankin
Mr. J. Archer	Mr. Lamotte	Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Scudamore
Mrs. Archer	Mrs. O. Morgan	
Major Bevanish	Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Miles	Mr. F. Woodhead
2nd Lieut. Herinas Bell	Dr. W. Miley	Mr. R. Wolfgang
Mrs. Boase	Misses Maillard (2)	Mr. H. Whitehead
Lieut. C. W. Boyle	Miss G. F. Massiah	Lieut. E. K. C. Weatherhead
Capt. E. T. W. Carr	Mr. G. R. Podd	
Mr. G. Davis	Mr. & Mrs. G. Ponsonby	

ELDERS & FYFFES, LTD.—Sailing from Avonmouth for Jamaica per S.S. *Cavina*, December 5th:—

Mr. G. B. Morris	Mr. and Mrs. Godden	Rev. & Mrs. E. E. Brice
Mr. A. K. Doncombe	Smith	Miss C. A. Black
Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Calton	Miss Godden Smith	Commander A. J. Escande
Mr. R. J. Graham	Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Bennett	Lieut. Le Cour Grand-maison
Mr. M. James	Miss Bennett	Mr. Claude Coeffeur
Mr. F. Farquharson	Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Souter	
Dr. & Mrs. H. H. Scott	Miss Souter	

SAILING FROM AVONMOUTH FOR JAMAICA, per S.S. *Chagres*, December 14th:—

Mrs. A. Moseley	Mr. P. A. Dewhurst	Capt. G. Rolleston
Miss K. C. Cheawidden	Miss H. M. Latreille	Capt. L. L. Bevan
Dr. & Mrs. T. M. Bartlett	Mr. N. P. Reader	Mr. A. P. Tucker
Misses Bartlett	Mr. W. G. K. Fox	Mrs. S. G. Owen
Miss M. J. Levett	Mr. E. A. H. Haggart	Mrs. Keegan
	Capt. & Mrs. F. R. Dawes	Mrs. G. Thomas

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	1915	1914	1915	1914
Sugar	71,315	67,636 Tons.	14,706	15,382 Tons.
Molasses		831 Puns.		
Rum	3,123,005	3,525,660 PE. Gls.	1,231,987	1,013,195 Galls.
Molasses, &c.	1,603	1,677 Tons.		
Cacao	58,174	41,937 lbs.	7,127,003	7,319,536 lbs.
Coffee	172,326	238,767	6,163,024	5,965,792
Coco-nuts	1,734,860	1,693,846 No.	21,691,370	23,999,175 No.
Oranges			15,025,420	7,512,650
Bananas			2,901,524	15,007,766 Stems.
Citron			33,249	33,357 lbs.
Pimento			59,045	70,422 Cwts.
Ginger			10,172	16,831
Honey			116,545	141,802 lbs.
Dyewoods			39,695	50,710 Tons.
Gold	45,066	53,798 Ozs.		
Diamonds	4,612	9,517 Carats		
Rice	16,184,507	11,565,600 lbs.		
Balata	1,352,790	912,453		
Rubber	2,245	895		
Timber	104,979	191,164 cub. ft.		
Lumber	172,631	241,866 ft.		
Lime (citrate of)	15,527	10,357 lbs.		

Trinidad.		Barbados.		
1915	1914	1915	1914	
Sugar	48,863	46,515 Tons.	31,668	32,936 Tons.
Molasses	4,815	3,461 Puns.	51,416	102,381 Puns.
Rum	6,644	1,258		
Coco-nuts	10,722,119	12,824,575 No.		
Asphalt	89,769	117,611 Tons.		
Manjak	498	252		
Bitters	15,786	14,403 Cases.		
Coffee	10,020	15,920 lbs.		
Crude Petrol	9,704,452	12,602,748 Galls.		
Cacao	43,614,600	61,567,603 lbs.		
Cotton				
Seed				
Copra	30,846	11,315 Bags.		
Spice				
Kola				

Grenada.		
1914/15	1913/14	
Cacao	107,473	134,450
Cotton	213,309	530,666
Seed	378,639	740,752

St. Vincent.		
1915	1914	
Arrvrt.	3,644,207	3,342,706 lbs.
Cacao	107,473	134,450
Cotton	213,309	530,666
Seed	378,639	740,752

Dominica.		
1915	1914	
Cacao	555,184	516,768 lbs.
Limes	35,272	39,411 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	342,941	160,647 galls.
" concentrated	20,143	40,575
" Citrate of	310	2,762 cwt.
Lime Oil, distilled	944	1,936 galls.
" equalled	235	663
Hardwood	25,231	69,911 feet.
Bananas	3,039	2,502 stems.
Coco-nuts	298,656	391,484 No.

Barbados.		
1915	1914	
Copra	11	19 Bags.
Spice	199,710	335,375 lbs.
Kola	1,330	1,030

Grenada.		
1915	1914	
Cacao	107,473	134,450
Cotton	213,309	530,666
Seed	378,639	740,752

Trinidad.		
1915	1914	
Sugar	48,863	46,515 Tons.
Molasses	4,815	3,461 Puns.
Rum	6,644	1,258
Coco-nuts	10,722,119	12,824,575 No.
Asphalt	89,769	117,611 Tons.
Manjak	498	252
Bitters	15,786	14,403 Cases.
Coffee	10,020	15,920 lbs.
Crude Petrol	9,704,452	12,602,748 Galls.
Cacao	43,614,600	61,567,603 lbs.
Cotton		
Seed		
Copra	30,846	11,315 Bags.
Spice		
Kola		

Grenada.		
1914/15	1913/14	
Cacao	107,473	134,450
Cotton	213,309	530,666
Seed	378,639	740,752

Dominica.		
1915	1914	
Cacao	555,184	516,768 lbs.
Limes	35,272	39,411 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	342,941	160,647 galls.
" concentrated	20,143	40,575
" Citrate of	310	2,762 cwt.
Lime Oil, distilled	944	1,936 galls.
" equalled	235	663
Hardwood	25,231	69,911 feet.
Bananas	3,039	2,502 stems.
Coco-nuts	298,656	391,484 No.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXX.

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## The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

December 27th, 1915.

This number completes Volume XXX of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the index to which will be published with next issue. Special cases for binding Volume XXX. can be obtained at the publishing offices, price 2/9 each, or 3/3 post free. Subscribers can have their copies of the CIRCULAR bound at the inclusive charge of 4/6 on sending them carriage paid to the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

## THE ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY.

IN connection with the movement initiated by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for the development of the British sugar industry, which would render the United Kingdom independent of Germany and Austria, from which 60 per cent. of our sugar was drawn before the War, an article by DR. FRANCIS WATTS, C.M.G., in the *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol., XV., No. 2, is of interest. In this he reviews the ten years' work of the Gunthorpe's sugar factory in Antigua. This factory, commonly known as the Antigua Central Factory, which was planned in 1903, and reaped its first crop in 1905, enjoys the unique distinction of being the only sugar factory in the West Indies which has been directly subsidised by the British Government. It had its origin in agreements between a group of owners of sugar estates in Antigua and capitalists in London. At the outset the latter agreed to erect and run a factory capable of taking off the canes for 3,000 tons of sugar in the crop season of 100 working days, while the former, on their part, agreed to supply the canes for that amount of sugar

for a period of fifteen years. As payment, the cane growers were to receive the value of 4½ lbs. of 96° sugar for every 100 lbs. of canes, together with a *pro rata* division of half the profits of the factory after proper charges had been made for working expenses, interest, and sinking fund, with the guarantee of 10s. per ton of canes as a minimum price. The sinking fund was to redeem the capital in fifteen years, and as soon as this was done, the contracting estates proprietors were to receive shares in the factory equal in number to those originally issued by the Company. At this juncture the sum of £15,000, part of Antigua's share of the Imperial Grant-in-Aid of £250,000 which had been voted by Parliament in 1902 to enable the planters to tide over the period until the Sugar Convention then agreed to become effective, which was standing to the credit of the local Government, was handed over to the Company. It took the form of a free contribution towards the capital of £45,000, which was then thought sufficient for the needs of the concern, and was secured in the form of Debentures carrying no interest, £1,000 of which were to be cancelled annually so long as the terms of the above agreement were adhered to.

For a detailed account of the operations of the factory during the first ten years of its existence we must refer our readers to Dr. Watts' informative article, and it must suffice here to state that taking all circumstances into consideration they have been extremely successful. The original cost of the factory and its railways was £45,359, while a further sum of £57,602 was subsequently expended on additions and improvements, bringing the total capital value of the factory to £102,961. The extra outlay has been more than justified by the production of sugar, which has risen from 1,634 tons in 1905 to 9,131 tons last year. The share capital of the company is £1,250 and there have been raised in addition £60,000 debentures, £27,750 of which has been written off, while £3,000 has been placed to reserve, and £19,250 credited to the sinking fund.

As to the future of the Company the working of last year is an excellent criterion, for it was then that the manufacture, on account of the extensive improvements which had been carried out from time to time, reached a high level of efficiency. The price realised for the sugar was only £9 rs. 6d. per ton, yet the Company made a gross profit of £7,394, or over 7 per cent. on the capital outlay of the factory. In the same year the original contracting proprietors received 11s. 3½d. per ton of canes, while those who joined in the scheme at a later date received 10s. 7½d. Taking them all round the figures now available show conclusively that sugar can be

produced as cheaply in British Colonies as in any part of the world. It could not be expected however, that such sugar, no matter how cheaply produced, could compete with that exported from large consuming countries in which the sugar producers are protected to the extent of £2 10s. per ton, and are thus enabled to sell their surplus sugars, if necessary with advantage at cost price to the outside world. The evidence afforded by the working of the Antigua Central Factory is that, given preference in the United Kingdom to the extent of the £2 10s. Continental protection, British colonies would not have the slightest difficulty in meeting the sugar requirements of this country, so far as the cost of production is concerned. The question of quantity has been answered by the result of the enquiry made recently by the West India Committee, which has shown that more than enough sugar for the needs of the mother country could be produced within the Empire.

#### THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the many calls which have been made upon the generosity of those connected with the West Indies since the outbreak of war, the appeal for funds to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to carry out its objects, which should already be familiar to our readers, is meeting with a liberal response. In view, however, of the greatly increased strength of the British West Indies Regiment, which, owing in great measure to Jamaica's magnificent offer, to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR, will eventually number nearer 10,000 men than the 2,000 originally contemplated, a far larger sum than the £3,271 already collected will be needed if the men of the British West Indies Regiment are to be as well provided for in the matter of comforts as those from the great Dominions are. In this connection we would call the attention of our readers to the particulars on this page regarding the Grand Concert which Mr. JOHN BROMLEY is so kindly organizing in aid of the West Indian Contingent Fund. Mr. BROMLEY, who is connected by marriage with the well-known Berkeley family of St. Kitts, is a past-master in the art of making concert arrangements, having for some years organized the Sunday concerts at the Royal Automobile Club, in the Great Gallery of which palatial caravanserai the coming entertainment will be held. It will be noted he has secured the services of many distinguished artists whose names are names to conjure with in the musical world, and we hope that the West Indian community in this country will lend their fullest support to his patriotic efforts which have been prompted in the interests of the soldiers from overseas.

Whilst dealing with the West Indian Contingent we may also take the opportunity of calling the attention of relatives and friends to the directions with respect to the despatch of gifts to the gallant men who have come over from the West Indies to fight for King and Empire which have been issued

by the Contingent Committee. They have been very carefully drawn up, and are based upon the experience gained by the West India Committee during the first sixteen months of the War. In these directions intending donors are told what may be sent over and what may not. It is pointed out that gifts are best sent to individuals through the parcel post and that otherwise the most economical and satisfactory way of making gifts to soldiers in this country or abroad is by entrusting the Contingent Committee with sums of money with which to purchase and forward to their destinations such small articles as may be desired. Hitherto such gifts as cakes, preserves, etc., have been sent over in small packages with most unsatisfactory results, as might be expected. Postage fees have amounted to far more than the value of the cakes, and there have arisen difficulties regarding the duties on the jams which in many instances have been atrociously packed and have contaminated other articles beside them. The adoption of the Contingent Committee's suggestions will obviate such difficulties in future and will save immeasurable trouble and delay. It is hoped, therefore, that the Recruiting Committees and Chambers of Commerce will co-operate by giving them the fullest publicity.

#### WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

As announced in last CIRCULAR a Grand Concert will be held at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, on Tuesday, January 25th, under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, who has graciously consented to be present, in aid of the West Indian Contingent Fund. The Concert, which is being organised by Mr. John Bromley, who has kindly undertaken the arrangements, will commence punctually at 3 p.m. and will conclude at 4.30 p.m., when tea will be provided. The following distinguished artistes, among others, have promised their services :—

Miss Louise Dale.	Dr. Rumshisky (the Russian pianist).
Miss Amy Evans.	Mr. Felix Salmond (cello soloist).
Miss Ethel Hook.	Dr. Houston Collisson (in humorous songs).
Miss Ida Kiddier.	Mr. Percy French (art humorist), and
Miss Muriel Sims.	Mr. Ernest Hastings (entertainer at the piano).
Mr. Walter Hyde.	
Mr. Thorpe Bates.	
Mons. Boris Lensky (Russian baritone).	

Miss Lilian Braithwaite and Mr. Dawson Milward will appear in a duologue, and Miss Maude Valérie White, the well-known composer, will accompany some of her own songs.

Tickets for the Concert, price 10/- each, including tea, can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., or from Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee of the West India Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

## THE PROHIBITION OF LOGWOOD EXPORTS.

[Enclosures.]

The following correspondence has passed between the Executive of the West India Committee and the Colonial Office relative to the prohibition of the exports of logwood from the British West Indies, which formed the subject of a leading article in last issue:—

Chamber of Commerce, Dundee,  
and December, 1915.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

9th December, 1915.

Sir,—At a meeting of my Executive, held this afternoon, the question of the prohibition of the exports of Logwood and Logwood preparations from the British West Indies was under discussion.

2. I was instructed to ask if you would kindly inform my Committee when this prohibition was imposed and if you would enlighten them regarding the situation generally.

3. Several firms of merchants, members of the West India Committee, have contracts for delivery of Logwood in this country, France, and the United States, and they are naturally anxious to have as early information as it may be possible for you to afford on the subject.

4. They further wish me to ask if it may be possible for them to be furnished with copies of the correspondence which, they understand, has passed between the Dundee Chamber of Commerce and the Colonial Office with respect to this matter.

Hoping to receive an early reply,

I have the honour, etc.,

ALGERNON F. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street,

16th December, 1915.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th December, enquiring respecting the restrictions which have been imposed on the export of logwood from the West Indies.

2. In reply I am to state that the Secretary of State has for some time been in consultation with the Board of Trade on the subject of the serious shortage of dyes required by textile and other industries in the United Kingdom.

3. Manufacturers in this country have brought to the notice of the Board of Trade the great difficulty they have experienced in obtaining logwood from Jamaica, even on the terms of F.O.B. shipment, and in consequence it was decided to impose a prohibition on the export of logwood from Jamaica and British Honduras to all destinations other than the United Kingdom. Instructions were accordingly sent by telegraph to the Governor of Jamaica on the 26th November, and on the following day to the Governor of British Honduras.

4. The aim of this prohibition was to ensure that the requirements of this country were sufficiently provided for and meanwhile to permit exportation to other destinations under licence only in special cases.

5. It has already been found practicable to licence the exportation of a certain proportion of the produce of Jamaica and every effort is being made not only to arrange for sufficient contracts for this country, but also to provide facilities for shipment, the difficulties as to which have proved an important factor in producing the present shortage. It is hoped shortly, when these arrangements have been made, to permit exportation to foreign countries to take place more freely.

6. Copies of the recent correspondence with the Dundee Chamber of Commerce are enclosed for the information of your Committee, as requested.

I am, etc.,

H. J. READ,

For the Under-Secretary of State.

The Secretary, West India Committee.

Sir,—The present position of the supply of Logwood Extract and its allied preparations, Logwood Powder and Icterine Crystals, is a cause of much anxiety to the Dyeing trade of this District, and seriously affects the production of textiles for the use of Government Departments and the Clothing trade of the country generally.

The supply of Logwood products is mainly in the hands of the British Dyewood and Chemical Company (representing the interests of the United Dyewood Co., of America, with control of works in Jamaica) The West Indies Chemical Work, Ltd., Jamaica, and some French firms.

These firms are syndicated to control the manufacture, supply, and price of Logwood products. The resulting position so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, is very serious. Not only have prices advanced about 300 per cent., but the supply is entirely unequal to the demand, and while Logwood produced in the West Indies is being exported steadily to America, the home markets are practically at starvation point, and important British manufacturing firms, are unable to secure offers of wood at any price. The prospects are that a crisis will be reached early next year, if not sooner.

In these circumstances, it is suggested that H.M. Government should take such steps to control the export from at any rate the British West Indies of Logwood as would ensure the needs of the British trade being adequately met.

This matter is very urgent, and it is hoped it may receive the immediate attention of His Majesty's Government.

I am, etc.,

(Signed)

Geo. C. KEILLER,

Secretary.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office, London.

Downing Street,

16th December, 1915.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd December and to state that the question of the supply of logwood for this country has for some time engaged his anxious consideration in consultation with the Board of Trade and that on the 26th November telegraphic instructions were issued to the Governor of Jamaica to impose a prohibition on the export of logwood from Jamaica to all destinations other than the United Kingdom. Similar instructions were sent to the Governor of British Honduras on the following day. This prohibition is liable to mitigation by the issue of licences to export, regard being had, in granting such licences, to the requirements of this country.

2. The prohibition is intended to apply to extract and chips, as well as to unmanufactured wood.

3. Copies of this letter and of your letter under reply are being sent to the Secretary of the West India Committee at his request.

I am, sir, etc.,

(Signed) H. J. READ,

for the Under-Secretary of State.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,  
Dundee.

A Gazette Extraordinary was published in Jamaica on November 27th containing a Proclamation prohibiting exports of Logwood to all destinations, but indicating that shipments might be permitted under special conditions. Later the Governor apparently received directions from the Secretary of State that the prohibition was to be absolute in respect of all countries other than the United Kingdom. On December 3rd a deputation waited on the Governor as the outcome of which a cable was sent to the Secretary of State submitting the following points for consideration:—

1. Exporters have contracted to supply 12,000 to 15,000 tons to buyers in the United States of America and France, and have had monetary advances on account.

2. Contractors have received advances on account of these contracts, and have accumulated stocks to meet these contracts; they ask whether any consideration will be given to this position of affairs.

3. Exports of Logwood for 1914-15 were 60,000 tons, and are likely to be as much, if not more, for 1915-16. Exporters ask whether Imperial Government intend to purchase entire output of the year.

4. Until the requirements of the British Government and the conditions under which they will purchase are made known, and also what arrangements will be made as to tonnage, the effect of the embargo is to stop all dealing in Logwood for export, which means the throwing out of a very large number of labourers and others who have suffered greatly from drought and hurricane.



## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

*(Passed by the Press Censor for publication.)*

By a unanimous vote in the House of Commons a million more men is to be added to the British Army, bringing up the establishment to the huge total of 4,000,000. How far these figures correspond with the number of men actually enlisted we have yet to learn. Mr. Lloyd George, though his "too late" speech was significant of much in the conduct of the war, believes that the supply of munitions will now be equal to our requirements. But what is of greater importance is to preserve the proportion between men and munitions. This year we had relatively too many of the first, and not enough of the second. It is to be hoped that in 1916 we shall not have too many of the second and not enough of the first. But unless strong action is taken when the result of the Derby scheme is made known the danger is by no means remote.

### The Higher Commands.

Sir John French, by his own request, has been relieved of his command in France. However glorious the future of the British Army on this front may be it will not outshine the superb record of the past seventeen months, especially the first six against overwhelming odds. Sir Douglas Haig, whose services have so often been extolled in the despatches of Sir John French, has been appointed to the supreme command of the British Forces in France and Flanders. His successor in command of the First Army will be Sir Charles Monro, with the laurels of the Anzac retirement fresh upon him. The new general in command of the British Forces in the Near East will be Sir Archibald Murray.

### In the Balkans.

The result of the Greek elections, in which the Venezelist party refrained from voting, is a rebuff for King Constantine. For in spite of the efforts of the Government to get as many voters as possible to the polls, a large majority abstained. Evidently the pressure of events is teaching Greece that she is not only playing an ignoble part, but one which, if persisted in, will, in the long run, be fatal to her interests.

The concentration on the Greco-Serbian frontier from Chevgeli to Lake Doiran adds another fine chapter to the history of Anglo-French operations during the war. The Irish regiments, in particular, behaved with great valour. Two companies of one of them, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, held back the enemy on Ken's Crest for a whole morning. Scarcely a man survived, but the object of their gallant stand against overwhelming odds was attained—the Allies were able to withdraw to their selected third-line defences with their backs to their ships and their faces towards the Turco-Bulgarian armies.

Besides Lake Doiran the Greek border consists of lofty hills, which may play a prominent part in

later developments, since, if an attempt is made at an enveloping movement this range must be crossed. Between it and Salonika the country is bold and picturesquely varied, adapting itself readily to the defensive. In the Pajak Mountains thirty-two miles north-west of the city, is a line of strong positions which science could render almost impregnable. The enemy will find it difficult to carry out his threat of driving the Allied forces into the sea. The decision to remain at Salonika was, therefore, strategically sound, for though without the command of the sea Germany's grandiose schemes in the Balkans and Asia Minor could not be carried out, her possession of that port would have seriously lengthened the war. The British Navy bars her path to a decisive success everywhere, and is the essential element of Allied superiority and ultimate victory.

To us the use of Salonika as a base serves to neutralise and impress Greece and Roumania until such time as events favour their participation in the war, and to act as a growing menace to both flanks of the enemy. It is, indeed, the pivot of our strategy in the Balkans, whether with regard to the Italians and Serbians in Albania, the Russians on the Danube, or the British and French in Greece. That is to say the situation is such that the enemy will be compelled to divide his forces. He has advanced too quickly in the Balkans as he did in France.

### On the Western Front.

In the Vosges the Hartmannsweilerkopf has again been the scene of violent fighting. The French in their attack extended their positions on the eastern slopes of the mountain, besides capturing 1,200 prisoners, including 21 officers. In a counter-attack the Germans unfortunately regained part of the trenches which they had lost. For the present it is evident that little progress can be made on the Western front. The use of interior lines and strategic railways, combined with the advantages secured to Germany by her foresight, still enable her to keep the Allies in the West at bay, if no more.

### In the Dardanelles.

The passing of the British, Australians, New Zealanders, and the Newfoundland Regiment, together with the Indians, was worthy of the imperishable glory they have won there. Masterly retreats in this war have been many, but this one was almost miraculous, the credit of it being shared by General Monro, General Birdwood, Admiral Wemyss, and the men themselves. Under the very eyes of the enemy, both in Suvla and Anzac, a great army, with nearly the whole of its guns and stores, was removed in such perfect order and secrecy that there were only three casualties—all wounded. Not only had they to withdraw from positions held in broken and difficult country, exposed to the fire of the enemy, to the open beach commanded by a circle of rugged hills, but they had to embark with all their impedimenta in boats, and transfer to



**A FINE STOOL OF SUGAR CANES.**

From a photograph taken on Blubber Valley Estate by Mr. José Anjo.

transports and men-of-war. It was at once a high achievement of generalship and conduct.

The troops from Anzac and Suvla Bay are to be transferred to another sphere of operations. But the Turks are to be held in Gallipoli by the British and French at the extreme south of the peninsula.

### On the Italian Front.

Though Gorizia has not yet fallen, the ring of steel round it has been drawn closer. The Austrian attempt at a counter-offensive has failed. In the Trentino the Italians have captured another height to the east of Rovereto. Elsewhere on this front none but minor attacks have been announced, and these have, for the most part, ended in favour of our Ally.

Italian troops have been landed at Valona, in Albania, and it is believed that they will soon be increased to 80,000.

### The War at Sea and in the Air.

The Germans have lost another of their cruisers in the Baltic by the sinking of the *Bremen*, which was hunted down by an Allied submarine. The accompanying torpedo-boat was also torpedoed, while the *Banz*, an auxiliary vessel engaged in patrol work, foundered in the Langeland Belt after striking a drifting mine.

Off the Belgian coast the enemy has lost a sea-plane. It was engaged in observation duty, when a British aeroplane sighted it, and gave chase. After a duel in the air, the German machine was hit and fell, bursting into flames before it struck the water, when it exploded. The British aeroplane, too, was so seriously damaged by gun fire that it fell into the sea, but both officers were rescued.

The French Fleet is as active as our own. In the Levant a cruiser has shelled and entirely destroyed a German munitions factory at Halfa, in Syria, and off Nieuport, brought down a German sea-plane, capturing the two naval officers who formed its crew.

The ceaseless activity of aircraft on the West may be gathered from the fact that, on the 19th inst., no fewer than 44 aerial combats took place on the British front alone.

### The Campaign in Mesopotamia.

The headquarters of German intrigue in Persia have been moved from Kuum—which has since been seized by the Russians—near Teheran, southwards to Spahan, and the defeated force of German and Turkish mercenaries, supplemented by discontented Persians, which fell back on Hamadan, are kept moving by the Russians, who have occupied the place. There will be a further retreat, probably on Baghdad, along the route of the railway, which was to link up Teheran with Baghdad, via Hamadan. As the Russians are not likely to remain inactive, they will help to relieve the pressure on Sir John Nixon's expedition, thus forming part of the Allied

Army in Mesopotamia. It is not generally appreciated that the Germans are pushing forward the construction of the Baghdad railway with all the energy they can bring to bear upon it.

In the meantime General Townshend's force is holding its own at Kut, and besides repulsing the attacks of the enemy with heavy losses, has been able to make a surprise counter-attack with success.

### The East African Campaign.

Owing to the vast area of German East Africa, its trying climate and indifferent communications, as well as the total inadequacy of the British forces engaged in the attack upon it, the last remaining colony of the enemy still holds out. But it will not do that long, since the campaign on our side is to be prosecuted with greater vigour. Not only has General Smith-Dorrien been appointed to command the operations, but strong reinforcements are being despatched to British East Africa by this country and South Africa. The difficulties to be overcome are as great, if not greater, than those overcome by the Bothaland expedition.

### Trouble over the "Ancona."

Though the sinking of the *Ancona* is dwarfed in the American mind by the sinking of the *Lusitania*, it is leading to strained relations between Austria-Hungary and the United States, whereas relations with Germany are still normal. The reason is that President Wilson is stiffening his back, with the alternative of the perpetration of further outrages. For Vienna flouts the Republic just as Berlin does, and makes use of the usual evasions in answering the American Note. But, apparently, the process is to be summarily cut short this time.

### A New Complication.

Germany is evidently determined to set the whole world against her. The latest outrage of her navy is the sinking, without warning, of one of Japan's finest ocean liners, the *Yasaka Maru*, with passengers of divers nationalities on board, including American, Spanish and Swiss. Everyone was saved by a French gunboat, and landed at Port Said. Japan, it should be noted, has an old grudge against Germany.

(To be continued.)

### SUGAR-CANE IN ANTIGUA.

An especially fine stand of canes growing on the Blubber Valley Estate in Antigua, from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo, forms the subject of the full page illustration in this issue. It will be noticed that the canes are singularly erect, and are of a length to gladden the heart of the most exacting sugar planter. We have not been supplied with particulars as to the variety of sugar-cane being grown; but it is evidently a fine upstanding kind and one calculated to give rise to visions of a yield per acre of prodigious extent.

## WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

### Directions regarding Gifts for Soldiers.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has issued the following memorandum for general information :

All communications for the West Indian Contingent Committee should be addressed :—

THE HON. SECRETARY,  
WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE,  
15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.

Correspondence for the Ladies' Committee, which has been formed to assist the Contingent Committee, should be sent to :

THE HON. SECRETARY,  
LADIES' COMMITTEE,  
WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE,  
5, TREVOR SQUARE,  
LONDON, S.W.

For the guidance of relatives and friends of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment and of those from the West Indies who are serving with other units, the following directions have been drawn up :—

1. **MODE OF ADDRESS.**—The address on all letters, postal packets, etc., for individual soldiers should include : Regimental number, rank, name, Company, Battalion, Regiment and destination. When the destination is not known letters, postal packets, etc., may be sent to the care of the General Post Office. The following is an example.

575, PRIVATE JENKINSON,  
"A" COMPANY,  
1ST BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT,  
c/o G.P.O., LONDON.

2. **GIFTS FOR INDIVIDUALS.**—Gifts for individuals should be sent to them direct by Parcel Post.

Owing to the heavy cost of carriage, and also, in some cases, to the Customs duties, the Contingent Committee cannot undertake to receive gifts for individuals stationed in this country unless they are forwarded through recognised bodies, such as the local Recruiting Committees, Chambers of Commerce, etc., willing to meet the charges involved.

*But in any case such gifts are much best sent direct by Parcel Post.*

3. **SUITABLE GIFTS.**—A list of articles which experience has shown to be useful to soldiers is given below :—

Housewives.	Automatic lighters (not containing oil, spirit, or similar substances).
Handkerchiefs, boot laces.	Safety matches (packed in sealed tins).
Cacao (prepared).	Antiseptic powder.
Spices (prepared).	Boracic ointment or borated vaseline for sore feet (in small tins).
Chocolate, peppermints and sweets.	Brompton cough lozenges.
Dried fruits.	Jujubes.
Ginger (prepared).	Notepaper and envelopes.
Guava jelly and preserves (if properly put up).	Postcards and Pencils.
Hot sauces, salmagundi, &c.	
Briar pipes and tobacco pouches.	
Tobacco (packed in thick tinfoil if possible).	
Cigarettes, cigarette papers and cigarette tobacco.	

4. **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.**—Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and other dutiable goods are subject to the full duty in the United Kingdom, except when sent to hospitals through the Red Cross or other approved Society, or to individuals or bodies of men in the Indian or Colonial Contingents serving temporarily in this country. They can, however, be sent to individuals and units out of the United Kingdom and delivered duty free.

5. **FRUIT FOR INDIVIDUALS UNACCEPTABLE.**—Gifts of fresh fruit and perishable articles should *not* be sent over by individuals, as owing to delays in transit and congestion at the docks, they rarely arrive in good condition.

6. **THE COMMITTEE WILLING TO PURCHASE GIFTS.**—Except where gifts—such as cigars, etc.—can be forwarded direct by Parcel Post, the most satisfactory way of sending presents to individuals, whether in or out of the United Kingdom, is for the donors to forward money to the Contingent Committee, who will be glad to purchase, pack and despatch any small articles that may be desired.

*The adoption of this recommendation will save much disappointment which must inevitably result when parcels are sent from the West Indies containing articles which are prohibited, or are too heavy for acceptance under the regulations for transmission out of the United Kingdom.*

7. **GIFTS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION.**—The Committee will be glad to receive and forward to their destination gifts for general distribution to specified units abroad, provided that they meet the following requirements :—

(a) Consignments must be *very securely packed*, and clearly addressed in accordance with the following example :—

GIFTS FOR THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT,  
WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE,  
15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.

(b) The labels should in all cases show the general contents of the packages and the names and addresses of the senders.

(c) Cases should be screwed, and not nailed.

(d) Packages must not be less than 11 lbs. nor more than 56 lbs. in weight. *If these limits are exceeded the packages cannot be delivered.*

(e) A letter of advice, giving a complete list of the contents of each case, and parcel receipt and/or Bill of Lading must be forwarded to arrive in England at the same time as, or if possible before, the packages.

8. **MUFFLERS, MITTENS AND COMFORTS.**—Gifts of mufflers, mittens and helmets with ear-flaps will be gladly accepted by the Ladies' Committee, who will be able to distribute to advantage elsewhere those not needed by the British West Indies Regiment. Such articles should conform with the following specifications :—

Mufflers should be made of drab-coloured wool, and should be 58 inches long and 10 inches wide, and have no fringe; mittens should be made of drab-coloured wool, and should be 8 inches long and 7 inches wide across the top. Full directions for knitting these articles, and also helmets with ear-flaps, can be obtained from the Ladies' Committee, whose address is given above.

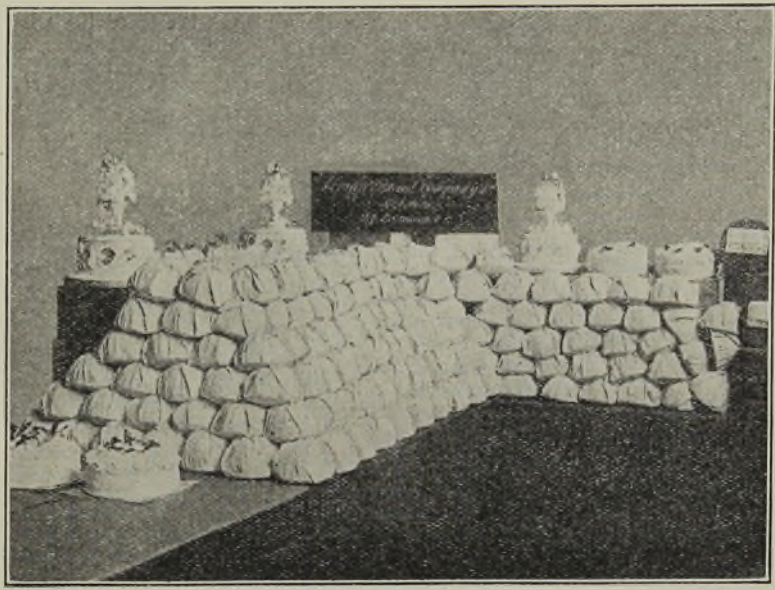
**The Contingent Fund.**

The West Indian Contingent Fund now amounts to £3,271, excluding the amounts earmarked for Christmas gifts. Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Per Arthur A. Cipriani, Esq., and R. R. Mole, Esq. (Editor of <i>The Mirror</i> ) (to purchase gifts for the 1st and 2nd Trinidad Public Contingents) ... ..	550	0	0
Per C. F. P. Renwick, Esq. (Editor of <i>The West Indian</i> ) (to purchase gifts for Grenada men) ... ..	100	0	0
Mrs. Mary Percival, Mrs. Lillian Gilmer, and Mrs. G. F. Goodwin (proceeds of an entertainment to provide gifts for West Indians on active service) ... ..	60	0	0
The Government of Dominica ... ..	50	0	0
The Government of Antigua ... ..	50	0	0
The Government of Dominica (earmarked for Christmas presents for Dominica men) ... ..	34	0	0
The Government of St. Kitts-Nevis (earmarked as Christmas gifts) ... ..	34	0	0
The Barbados General Agricultural Society His Excellency Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G. ... ..	25	0	0
The Government of Montserrat ... ..	12	0	0

D. Mactaggart, Esq. ... ..	10	0
James Lothian, Esq. ... ..	10	0
S. H. Taylor, Esq. ... ..	5	0
Sub-Officers and Men of Kingston Division Jamaica Constabulary (to purchase gifts for their late comrades in the Force)...	3	15
L. W. Sampson, Esq. ... ..	2	2
J. O. Challenger, Esq. ... ..	1	10
E. H. G. Dalton, Esq. ... ..	1	1
Dr. Norman Dalton ... ..	1	1
F. W. Driver, Esq. ... ..	1	1
Stanley Savill, Esq. (earmarked for Trinidad and Tobago detachment) ... ..	1	1
Dugald Campbell, Esq. ... ..	1	0
Mrs. Bernard D'Oyley ... ..	1	0
G. E. Grabham, Esq. ... ..	1	0
H. F. Haynes, Esq. ... ..	1	0
Charles W. Hewitt, Esq. (Jamaica) ... ..	1	0
H. R. Melville, Esq. ... ..	1	0
E. B. Skeete, Esq. ... ..	1	0

The object of the Fund is to enable the Committee to provide for the welfare and comforts of the men of the Bermudian and West Indian Contingents, as well as of hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come over to fight for their King and Country. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.



SOME CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS FOR THE B.W.I.'S.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G. ... ..	10	10
The Government of Montserrat (earmarked as Christmas gifts) ... ..	10	0
R. B. Wattle, Esq. ... ..	10	0
The Superintendent, Office Staff, and Officers of the Prison Department, Trinidad (to purchase gifts for men late of the Prison Service) ... ..	7	12
Collected by the Provost of Cambeltown, N.B., per Lady Llewelyn—		
A. Campbell, Esq. ... ..	2	0
D. MacCullum, Esq. ... ..	1	0
T. Brown, Esq. ... ..	1	0

have undertaken the distribution of many gifts, including brand new Treasury notes of a sovereign each to the men of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, from the people of those colonies, which were sent to Seaford with appropriate Christmas cards, gifts of money for the men of Sangre Grande collected by Mrs. Robinson, the wife of the Warden of Manzanilla, and similar gifts for the St. Kitts men collected by Mr. John M. Evelyn. On behalf of the Girls' High School of St. Vincent

The activities of the West Indian Contingent Committee during the past fortnight have been chiefly directed towards providing for the enjoyment of the men of the British West Indies Regiment at Christmas. The Saturday night concerts at the Y.M.C.A. hut, which have proved such a source of attraction, have been continued at the expense of the Committee, and arrangements are in train for enabling the men in future to provide their own music, it being proposed to present to the regiment the necessary instruments for a band, regarding which an announcement will be made after the next meeting of the Executive. The Committee

tempting packets of cigarettes and sweets were purchased and sent to the Vincelonians in the regiment.

In order that the men of the regiment as a whole might enjoy a characteristic English Christmas dinner two hundred and twelve Xmas puddings were sent to the Commanding Officer. The Committee also sent sums of money to the Presidents of the two Sergeants' Messes towards the cost of "extras" for the Christmas dinner.

The Bermuda Contingent was not forgotten and several hampers of cakes, cigars, cigarettes which have been sent for their acceptance to the Officer Commanding the regiment to which they are attached at the front will remind them that they have friends in the West Indian Contingent Committee solicitous for their welfare.

When the West Indian Contingent Committee issued its original appeal for funds in September last it was understood that the contribution from the British West Indies to the Imperial Forces in the form of a Contingent would not exceed 2,000 and reserves. Since then matters have moved rapidly, and it is probable that the total strength of the British West Indies Regiment will be nearer 10,000 than 2,000 men. It is obvious, then, that a far larger sum than was originally contemplated will be needed if the Committee is to provide adequately for the welfare of the Contingent besides the many gallant men who have come over independently or of those who may be coming over to fight for their King and Empire. The West Indian Contingent Fund has made capital progress, but where the comfort of from 10,000 to 12,000 men are concerned, £3,271, the present amount collected, will not go far, and it is hoped that readers of the CIRCULAR will ungrudgingly support the efforts which are being made to raise the figure to one more in keeping with the requirements of the case.

The following additional gifts of comforts for the B.W.I.'s have been received by the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee at 5, Trevor Square, since November 9th:—

Lady Hayes Sadler: 3 doz. prs. gloves.  
 Lady Milman (Primrose League Needlework Committee): 62 prs. socks, 24 shirts, 10 vests, 6 scarves, and 30 pillow cases.  
 Lady Hodgson: 5 prs. mittens.  
 Miss James: 2 prs. gloves.  
 Mrs. Moody Stuart: 6 flannel shirts, 6 scarves.  
 Miss Hart Bennett: 6 knitted helmets for Bahamas Contingent.  
 Anon.: 1 pr. gloves.

The following have been received at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.:—

Mrs. Luke M. Hill: 6 prs. mittens and 6 mufflers for the Demerara men.  
 Miss Hatch: 1 muffler.  
 Mrs. Rutherford: 6 prs. socks and 1 pr. mittens.

THE Association of Chambers of Commerce are to meet on February 29th to discuss the all-important question of trade after the war, and to decide what recommendations shall be made to the Government on the subject.

## IMMIGRATION IN TRINIDAD.

The Report of the Trinidad Protector of Immigrants on Indian immigration into that Colony for the year 1914-15 states that during this period two ships with immigrants arrived from Calcutta, bringing a total of 443 souls, equal to 429 statute adults. These were in very good health, only one death having occurred on the voyage. It is interesting to note that Dr. Ireland, the surgeon superintendent of one of the ships, treated the whole of the immigrants on board for ankylostomiasis. On examination on landing, however, 50 per cent. were found to be suffering from hook-worm, which points to the conclusion that the conditions on board were not suitable for satisfactory treatment.

In this connection it is recorded that the Commission which is sitting in the Colony on the subject of the prevalence of this disease undertook the examination of all the indentured labourers living in three of the largest estates in the Naparimas. In these a percentage of infection of 94.23 per cent., 82.64 per cent. and 91.42 per cent. was found. This heavy infection rate of course indicated a most unsatisfactory condition. In two of these estates treatment was put by the Commission at the disposal of all requiring it. On the third the District Medical Officer of the district undertook the arrangements, and the result of the treatment (which was undertaken simultaneously with the provision of adequate latrine accommodation) has been pre-eminently satisfactory. The estate was previously one of the least healthy in the island, but the average number of patients in the estate hospital has diminished since the reforms by two-thirds.

Four of the new immigrants were returning coolies who brought with them bills on the Treasury to the amount of \$1,492.

As regards desertions, Mr. de Boissiere has nothing good to say. The numbers have increased from 638 in 1913-14 to 687. This is attributed to scarcity of labour, leading to higher wages for easier work outside the place of indenture, and to escape to neighbouring Venezuela, where the men are outside the power of the law.

The mean death rate for the year was 1.45 per cent., the lowest on record since 1907, when the same figure was recorded. Taking all things into consideration, the Protector has "no reason to think that the lot of the immigrants is otherwise than happy."

The general condition of the free coolies is stated to be excellent. There are, to-day, many East Indians of independent means, some occupying positions of trust and honour in the Government service, and a few in the professions of law and medicine. Many are well-to-do merchants, while others still retain their affection for the soil, either as cane growers or landed proprietors. 75,000 acres of land in the colony are now cultivated by East Indians.

The total East Indian population of the island is 120,704, of which 26,678 are resident on estates. Of the latter 8,474 are indentured.

Unfortunately, Mr. de Boissière has to report an increasing number of prosecutions under the Immigration Ordinance, a position of things which he considers not so much due to "the worthlessness of the immigrants as to the want of tact, sympathy and skill on the part of some of the managers."

## MONTSERRAT'S LIME INDUSTRY.

### The Causes of its decline.

That the lime fruit industry of Montserrat has gone down hill in recent years is a fact which admits of no contradiction. Its decline has been attributed to many causes, but at present there seems to be a consensus of opinion that scale insects and especially the purple scale are at the root of the evil. Soil grubs also play havoc with the roots of the trees.

On the principle that forewarned is forearmed, proprietors of lime estates in Dominica and St. Lucia should study Mr. Robson's observations in this connection which are published in his report on the Agricultural Department of Montserrat.

In 1909 he commenced observations on the principal fields of a lime estate with regard to their condition generally, and particularly as to the severity of the attacks of scale insects. Surveys of these fields have been made at intervals since that time and a record kept of the condition of each field. What would appear to be the most interesting and useful observation is that the few fields in which the trees had grown together, leaving no intervening space between the trees or very little, at the time the observations were commenced, have remained in a comparatively healthy condition and have continued to bear crops, while practically all the other fields have shown either continued decline or have been severely diseased for a more or less prolonged period. While purple scale is always noticed to be present on these closed-in fields, the parasitic red fungus is noticed to be particularly active and seems just able to keep the purple scale from becoming unduly abundant, taking the fields as a whole. The efficacy of the red fungus under these conditions would appear to be due to the extra surface humidity provided by the canopy formed by the lime trees themselves. Whether or not this is the correct interpretation, the fact that these fields have remained healthy and promise to remain so, leads on to the question whether it is practicable under estate conditions to aim at the development of trees to bring about this closed-in condition, or to create such by the planting of suitable trees between the lime plants, such for instance of *Glicicidia*.

The discouraging feature in connexion with the planting of new areas in recent years has been that within a short time young lime plants become infested with purple scale, and a considerable proportion succumb as a result; though it is now evident that even on young trees severe attacks of purple scale, in the absence of any artificial means of control, extend only for limited periods, and

very satisfactory growth is noticed to develop later on trees that survived the period when the purple scale was severe.

During the year experiments have been carried out in spraying 220 young lime plants, started when the plants were two years of age and at the time that purple scale threatened to destroy the trees.

### Spraying Experiments.

Scalo, rosin compound and whale oil soap were the insecticides used, and very considerable benefit has resulted, as is seen on comparing the sprayed trees with the remainder of the field. But it has not been shown that any particular one has been more effective than the others. Three out of six rows treated with Scalo have been sprayed eight times between March 16, 1914, and March 23, 1915, while the other rows sprayed with the same mixture have only had three applications, viz., on March 16, April 16, and October 20, 1914. The condition of the plot sprayed most frequently, though decidedly better, does not justify the extra expense involved, the object of the frequent spraying being the complete suppression of the purple scale, to decide if the decline of young trees was due chiefly to the attacks of this scale or whether the trees continued to decline, showing that root injury was the important factor. The results support the idea that purple scale is the prime factor to be considered. The present condition of that part of the Scalo plot sprayed most frequently denotes fairly conclusively that spraying at best is only a palliative, as some of the trees on this plot still carry healthy purple scale, and complete suppression from the use of spray washes apparently cannot be looked for. The advantage of spraying the trees on these plots is quite apparent, comparing them with the trees on the remainder of the field, of which those that had not succumbed to the attacks of purple scale in 1914 are making new growth, the severe attack of the scale appearing to have exhausted itself so to speak for the time being.

That severe attacks of purple scale are limited to periods, is confirmed as the result of observation in several fields, and the spray washes having exerted sufficient control over the purple scale during the period of severe attack, it remains to be seen whether the future growth made by the trees justifies incurring the expense of spraying, and to what extent natural enemies are able to keep the purple scale in check for the future.

It has to be admitted in connexion with the spraying experiments on larger trees, outlined in last year's report, that there has not been any marked improvement in any of the plots treated, comparing their condition with the untreated control plot, and it is possible that there are other factors to consider besides the attacks of purple scale on this area.

Certain experiments suggested by the Entomologist of the Department (Mr. H. A. Ballou, M.Sc.) were started on lime trees in pots which were infested with the grubs of the weevil *Exophthalmus esuricus* immediately after they had hatched from the egg. Twelve plants were so infested, but only one has died as the result of grub injury, the young

grubs in all the other pots having been destroyed from some unknown cause. At the time these experiments were commenced twelve other plants were placed in pots and infected with purple scale at the end of August. The scale developed very rapidly on these plants and at the end of December all the plants had died, being then encrusted with purple scale for the whole length of the stem. The root systems of these plants were found to be in good condition at the time the foliage dropped from the plants, and it conclusively proves, so far as it goes, that purple scale alone is capable of destroying young trees.

#### Conclusions arrived at.

Summarizing the position with regard to lime cultivation, the continued good health of closed-in fields appears to the writer to provide an object at which lime growers should aim in establishing lime fields. This does not mean that the trees should necessarily be planted closer together, though the question of distance will be influenced by the character of the land and the rainfall. It seems to imply that there should be some artificial means of controlling scale insects, should they develop, and at the period when they are severe. Fields, however, have been established within the last twelve years, on which there was no striking development of purple scale until the plants had reached the bearing stage, and the development of the scale will depend on the opportunity for the infection of the young plants either in the nurseries before being planted out, or on the transmission of it from older infected trees in the neighbourhood after the field is planted. To encourage young trees to develop quickly, green dressings should be grown between the plants from the time they are planted.

To put these ideas to a thorough test, arrangements have been made in co-operation with the Montserrat Company, Limited, to plant one acre of land in lines near the Experiment Station, which will be treated on the above lines, i.e., green dressings will be continuously grown from the time the trees are planted and an attempt will be made to cope with purple scale should it develop. One half of this plot will have plants of *Gliricidia* alternating with the rows of lime trees to provide additional shelter and shade.

#### OBITUARY.

##### MR. WALTER B. KINGSFORD.

As announced in last CIRCULAR, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford died on November 16th, at his residence in London.

Mr. Kingsford was possessed of an engaging personality. Quiet and reserved, he had many friends. He first became associated with the West Indies through being briefed—he was a Barrister-at-Law—by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, on whose behalf he went out to the West Indies in 1876; later he was counsel in the litigation which went on for so long in connection with the Trinidad Pitch Lake. He was elected a Director of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company in 1896, and Chairman in 1902. In

that capacity he was indifferent to abuse regarding the service which was frequently showered upon him, and outwardly fearless of competition, and it was characteristic of his kindly nature that differences of opinion in business matters were never allowed to interfere with personal friendships. A member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club, he frequently attended the fortnightly dinners of the last-named body, and it was, we know, a great disappointment to him when they had to be suspended owing to the War. In the winter of 1913-14 he visited the West Indies on a tour of inspection of the stations of his Company. By the West Indian community in London and his many friends in this country and elsewhere he will be greatly missed.

##### MR. EDWIN T. RACKER.

We regret to announce that Mr. Edwin Thomas Racker died at Bridgetown, Barbados, on December 11th.

Mr. Racker at the time of his death was the Parochial Treasurer of St. Michael, Barbados, and editor and proprietor of the *Agricultural Reporter*. Born in Barbados, he was devoted to the island of his birth, and a particularly staunch supporter of the Representative Constitution, which the inhabitants have enjoyed since the year 1627. We believe that we are right in saying that he never left the island; certainly he never visited America or England, and though this, in the opinion of some, led to a certain insularity in his views on some public matters, and an unwillingness to be convinced regarding accepted theories as to medical and cognate problems, he was extremely well-informed. He took a great interest in the public life of Barbados, being Chairman of the Mutual Life Assurance Company and the Barbados Fire Insurance Company, and he had a seat on most of the public Boards in the island. He was a life Director of the Barbados General Hospital, and for many years filled the responsible position of Chairman of the House Committee. He was given a Commission of Peace many years ago. Being possessed of a strong sense of justice none suffering a wrong appealed to him in vain. Of a kindly, thoughtful nature, he was always ready to extend a helping hand, but he detested publicity in such matters, and many good deeds and kindly actions consequently passed unknown. He was a clever conversationalist, being extremely well-read, and, as already stated, well-informed. Mr. Racker leaves two sons and three daughters to mourn his loss. One son is a doctor with a medical practice in Manchester, while his other son is an electrical engineer in Bombay.

#### DARWIN AND HILL.

##### BY FRANK CUNDALL.

Dr. G. F. A. Da Costa has in his possession an unpublished letter by Charles Darwin addressed to Richard Hill, and has kindly consented to its publication in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Richard Hill, one of the most remarkable men that Jamaica has produced, is best known for his collaboration with Gosse, the naturalist, and for his efforts on behalf of the abolition of slavery. He contributed to several scientific publications both in England and America, and by this means became connected with some of the leading learned societies of the world. He was a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, of the Leeds Institute, and of the Smithsonian Institution, and he numbered amongst his correspondents Darwin and Poey. Darwin had written in September, 1856, to Gosse for further information with respect to the habits of pigeons and rabbits



referred to in his "Sojourn," and it was at Gosse's suggestion that Darwin wrote direct to Hill; and in a later letter, written in April, 1857, he says, "I owe to using your name a most kind and valuable correspondent in Mr. Hill, of Spanish Town."

The "little book" Darwin alludes to was "The Origin of Species," published when he had just completed fifty years. On the 11th of September he wrote that he had finished the last proof-sheet, adding "Oh, good heavens! the relief to my head and body to banish the whole subject from my mind!" The book was published on the 24th November, 1859, and the whole edition of 1,250 copies sold on the day of publication. On the 25th of January, 1859, in writing to A. R. Wallace on the question of "Origin of Species," Darwin had said "I am delighted to hear that you have collected bees' combs. . . . This is an especial hobby of mine, and I think I can throw a light on the subject. If you can collect duplicates, at no very great expense, I should be glad of some specimens for myself with some bees of each kind. Young, growing, and irregular combs, and those which have not had pupæ, are most valuable for measurements and examination. Their edges should be well protected against abrasion."

The following is a copy of Darwin's letter to Hill:—

Down, Bromley, Kent.

Aug. 8th, [1859].

My dear sir,

I have delayed answering your last kind note, until I got the hive (after some delay owing to mercantile forms) from Mr. Bishop. Mr. B. has been very obliging and when you see Mr. Wilkie pray give him my best thanks. The quality of honey was astonishing and so excellent that honey for him then repaid the cost of the hive. The combs were rather too crowded and old (till all fully formed) to be very good for measurement; yet I can clearly see that the cells are larger (in about proportion of 60 to 51) than the cells of British combs. This is a curious fact (and shows that Latraille was correct): the size of the cells of European cells are so uniform that I think that I remember that some wild [?] man proposed them as a standard unit of measurement! The walls of the cells are, I am almost sure, considerably thicker than in our cells; but I have as yet made no precise measurements. Now these facts make me anxious to obtain  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen dead Bees and perhaps 2 or 3 drones: until you oblige me by trying to get them from Mr. Wilkie's Stock, and send them in box in letter, as they could not weigh one  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. It is possible that the species may be different, or that our species may have grown larger under your magnificent climate. I have lately returned from spending a week at a Hydropathic establishment for my health-sake, and then I had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. . . . and charming Mrs. Wilkinson of Jamaica. Your letters have excited in me much interest about you, and I was quite delighted (if you will not think it impertinent in me to say so) to hear

of all your varied accomplishments and knowledge, and of your higher attributes in the sacred cause of humanity. I am sure I feel grateful to you for all your kind assistance, and I beg leave to remain with sincere respects,

My dear Sir, Yours very faithfully,

(Sgd.) CHARLES DARWIN.

My little Book will be not ready till the autumn, when a copy shall be sent you. I fear you will not at all approve of the results arrived at, but I hope and believe that you will give me credit for an honest zeal for truth.

For a bare chance of you proposing any information on two following heads, I will append two questions.

Do the cattle or horses or sheep or pigs which have long been bred in Jamaica (without crosses) tend to assume any particular colour, or other character? Several years ago poor Sir H. Delabèche told me he believed that they did.

Secondly is there any current belief in the W. Indies that there is any difference in the liability of pure Europeans of a light complexion and hair, or of a dark complexion and hair, to take the Yellow Fever or other Tropical complaints?

### THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

THE following appointments to the British West Indies Regiment were gazetted on December 14th:

Lieutenant Robert John Craig, British Guiana Local Forces, to be temporary Lieutenant. Dated 21st August, 1915.

The undermentioned officers of the Trinidad Local Forces to be temporary Lieutenants (dated 18th September, 1915):—

Major Allastair Murray McCulloch.

Captain Alfred Ernest Albert Harragin.

Captain Ernest Bovell Connell.

Captain Herbert James Lawrence Cavenaugh.

Captain William Hubert Gillespie Thorne, Barbados Volunteer Force (Honorary Lieutenant in the Army), to be temporary Lieutenant. Dated 20th September, 1915.

Lieutenant Thomas Henry Irving, British Guiana Local Forces, to be temporary Second Lieutenant. Dated 18th September, 1915.

The undermentioned Second Lieutenants, Trinidad Local Forces, to be temporary Second Lieutenants (dated 18th September, 1915):—

Alexander Sturrock Lawson.

Uailean Hamish McUistean Gordon-Chisholm.

Leonard Richmond Wheeler.

Robert Philip Johnstone.

John Patrick Thomson.

Edward Vivian Bynoe.

Edmund Richard Lickfold.

The undermentioned to be temporary Second Lieutenants (dated 19th September, 1915):

Lieutenant David Irvine Kerr, Grenada Local Forces.

Second Lieutenant Paul Ewart Francis Cressall, British Guiana Local Forces.

(dated 20th September, 1915):

Lieutenant George Challoner, Barbados Volunteer Force.  
Second Lieutenant Edward Keith Walcott, Barbados Volunteer Force.

Captain G. W. R. Jenkins and Captain Vincent G. T. Gane were gazetted temporary Majors on December 12th, to date from November 14th and 15th respectively, and Lieut. and Quartermaster G. E. Salmon, from the 11th Battalion Loyal Lancashire Regiment, joined the Battalion for duty on December 10th.

### NOTES OF INTEREST.

HIS many friends will be glad to learn that Major J. R. Boose, V.D., Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, reached Jamaica safely on December 14th.

MR. BERNARD BONYUN, having left England for Nigeria to resume his duties as Supervisor of Customs of the Southern Provinces, has relinquished the position of Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee.

MESSRS. WRIGHT & Co., of Old Hill, Staffordshire, have issued an attractive Circular of their garments, together with a yard measure and particulars for self-measurement which will no doubt be of interest to those who avail themselves of the C.O.D. system.

It is stated that a syndicate is being formed by Messrs. J. W. Seligman and Co. for the purpose of underwriting a combination of 24 Cuban sugar companies, which will have a capital of \$50,000,000 in Cumulative Preferred stock and 500,000 shares of Common stock.

THE Editor has to acknowledge with thanks a memorandum book and calendar for 1916 from Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd.; and a Treasury note case—contrived on the popular Japanese puzzle principle—from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

A CONFERENCE of Judges and Law Officers from Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago is to meet at Port of Spain on January 25th to discuss the question of the setting up of a West Indian Court of Appeal.

AFTER more than a year's strenuous work as an Inspector in the Special Constabulary, Mr. Charles Lamb, of Messrs. Alfred Lamb and Sons, a firm of prominence in the rum trade, has been the recipient of a handsome silver cigarette box from his squad of lay policemen.

MR. T. W. O'NEAL, Chancellor of the Diocese of Barbados, as already stated, is attached to the Census Office, and has been in Ireland lately on official business. He proposes to return to Barbados to reap his crop, and then to come back to England again and do more War work.

THE Farnborough Town Council has unanimously elected Mr. R. G. Duncan, of the Lindens, Farnborough Park, Hants, to represent the Farnborough District on the County War Agricultural Committee. The object of this Committee is to help in meeting some of the difficulties that face farmers

and others at the present time when they are being urged to increase if possible the food supply of the country.

AMONG other out-lying parts of the Empire to which the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR finds its way is the Touga Islands in the Pacific, one of the recipients being Mr. Darrel Wall, late Clerk to the Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, who informs us that it sometimes reaches him by what is known as the "Kerosine Tin Mail," the mails being put in empty kerosine tins, which are sealed and dropped down by the steamer within a mile or mile and a half of the shore when the weather is very rough. A native then swims after and retrieves the tin and the mails are delivered.

THE orange industry of Spain owes its success in no small measure to the scrupulous care which is devoted to the selection and packing of the fruit. According to the *Daily Telegraph*, the oranges, having been gathered, are conveyed in bulk to packing-houses, where they remain piled up for a few days. In wet weather, the fruit which has absorbed an excessive amount of moisture is cast aside as unfit for shipment. The remainder is assorted and grouped according to size, quality, and appearance. Consumers little know that marks on cases of oranges, such as "flor fina," "selected," and "superior" have a definite and distinct significance. Nor do they appreciate the amount of work entailed in wrapping the fruit in tissue-paper before it is put in the cases specially made to contain the exact number of oranges of standard size well known in every wholesale market. All these points tell in estimating the value of the fruit. As in the case of most articles, experts fix the price.

THE possibility of the extended adoption of the system of telpherage or aerial transportation in the British West Indies has frequently been discussed in these columns. In this connection the *Daily Telegraph* states that what is claimed to be the longest aerial transportation line in the world is now under construction in Colombia, South America. It stretches between Manizales and the Magdalena valley, terminal points about forty-five miles apart, though the cable-way is appreciably longer than this owing to the extent which it has to deviate from the straight line—both in a vertical and a horizontal plane—in order to surmount the natural obstacles that abound in the Andes. At one point the line rises to an elevation of no less than 12,000 feet above sea-level, and in sections adjacent to this point of maximum elevation some very long cable spans have been necessitated, several measuring over half a mile in length. It is intended that the line shall act as a feeder to Dorado Railway, to which it is designed to bring traffic at the rate of ten tons per hour, though the air-line is so arranged that this capacity can be increased by 100 per cent. without difficulty, so there is plenty of margin for traffic development.

## THE LONDON LETTER.

THE movement in the direction of national thrift and economy lacks momentum. The Law Officers of the Crown have agreed to a reduction in their princely fees which will bring their earned income down to the miserable pittance of about £10,000 a year each, and Members of Parliament who are carrying military despatches are to forego the pay which they have been receiving in addition to their Westminster salaries; but in other directions official extravagance is rampant. Meanwhile the working classes are showing no disposition to "put by" any appreciable amount of their wages—which have reached proportions undreamt of before the War—to provide against a rainy day, and are spending money lavishly on such luxuries as pianos, furs, and jewellery. The efforts of the War Savings Committee to induce thrift have not, so far, been very successful, and their attempt to induce the working man to invest his savings in the War Loan on the instalment principle has failed dismally.

THE reason is not far to seek. The working man has not been slow to realise that capital invested in the War Loan may deteriorate in value, while deposits in the Savings Bank can be withdrawn intact at any time. When the Savings Bank rate of interest and the present limit of deposits by an individual in one year (£50) are raised, there will be a greater inducement to save. In this connection the Cambridge War Thrift Committee is doing admirable work by calling attention to some points of vital importance. It reminds us that the expenditure of the Government is approaching £5,000,000 a day. Next year the total expenditure will probably exceed £1,500,000,000, which, with taxation at its present level, would involve a deficit of over £1,400,000,000. The annual national income is normally about £2,400,000,000, of which huge amount £400,000,000 is usually saved. Now, instead of saving £400,000,000, we are asked to save and lend to the Government, or pay in additional taxes £1,400,000,000 a year, leaving £1,000,000,000 instead of £2,000,000,000 to be expended by private individuals and public bodies. The nation as a whole is asked to save half of what it usually spends.

We have been again reminded of the ignorance of our legislators on matters pertaining to the colonies by a statement made by Captain Charles Bathurst, M.P., at the annual meeting of the Farmers' Club on December 6th, when the question of Land Settlement after the War was under discussion. Mr. George Hughes had been comparing the wasteful cultivation in England, involving hedgerows of useless hawthorn, with the perfect agriculture in Barbados, and had ridiculed the suggestion that scientific men should be sent to the Colonies to teach the people intensive cultivation; whereupon Captain Bathurst claimed that as a result of the competition of sugar beet the cane sugar

industry of Barbados—the main source of its prosperity—had *utterly failed* (the italics are our own), and that Sir Daniel Morris, by starting in the island new agricultural industries, had resuscitated the prosperity of its inhabitants. Sir Daniel would no doubt be the first to repudiate such a ridiculous assertion. Sugar always has been and always must be the mainstay of Barbados, for it has been shown that there is no industry which could take its place and provide for its teeming population.

THE Bermudas, Barbados, and Bahamas, which boast the most ancient constitutions of any of our overseas possessions—dating as they do from 1620, 1627, and 1728 respectively—should be represented on the Empire Parliamentary Association, the third annual meeting of the United Kingdom Branch of which was held in a Committee Room of the House of Commons on December 15th. The Association had its origin in a meeting between members of the Home and Dominion Parliaments on the occasion of the King's Coronation in 1911. It was felt that the bonds uniting Members of Parliament with brother-members in the various Oversea Dominions were of a flimsy or vague kind. It was to remedy that state of affairs that the Association was formed, and it will be recalled that some of its members visited the Overseas Dominions before the outbreak of war.

ONE significant result of the new import duties on Cinema films is that foreign firms are now rehearsing their plays and taking their pictures in this country and are thus spending money here which would otherwise be spent abroad. This is in full accord with the tenets of those who favour a "tariff." Apropos of the Cinematograph, one of the chief attractions this Christmas will be the remarkable under the sea pictures which are to be shown at the Philharmonic Hall. They were taken by two brothers, Ernest and William Williamson, sons of a United States Naval captain, who invented a moving picture camera which takes scenes 100 feet or more below the surface of the sea as well as an ordinary camera does on land. Among the pictures shown will be one of a vessel—possibly a blockade runner—which was wrecked in 1863, while others show a man fighting a shark and diving boys retrieving coins. To West Indians the pictures will have a particular interest owing to the fact that they were taken off Nassau (should not the Teutonic name of the capital of New Providence be changed?) and St. Salvador, in the Bahamas. Sir George Haddon Smith, when Governor of the Bahamas, and his wife, were venturesome enough to take a submarine trip with the American brothers, and several of the pictures were taken on that occasion.

By the death of Lord Alverstone which occurred at the comparatively early age of 74, England has lost one of her most prominent lawyers. The second son of Thomas Webster, Q.C., he was educated at King's College School, the Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge. Entering the House of

Commons as Member for Launceston, Richard Webster became Attorney-General in the same year and remained so until 1900, with an interregnum between 1892 and 1895. He received a baronetcy in 1879, and a barony in 1900, when he became Lord Chief Justice of England. From this position he retired in 1913, when he was made a viscount. Lord Alverstone will be chiefly remembered by West Indians for the able manner in which he, as Sir Richard Webster, conducted the British case before the tribunal appointed to arbitrate in the boundary dispute between Venezuela and British Guiana in 1899, which so nearly brought about a state of war between the United States and this country.

### SOME NATURE NOTES.

MR. K. MIYAKE has recently been studying the nature of the sugars in the sweet potato, and has come to the conclusion that they consist of both reducing and non-reducing sugars. The former consist of glucose and fructose, the latter of sucrose or cane sugar. No maltose or other sugars were found. It would be of great interest if this matter was followed up in the West Indies, and the question definitely settled as to the proportion of sucrose ordinarily present.

MR. T. W. LEATHER has recently been investigating the subject of the relations existing between the carbonic acid in soils and the lime and magnesia in solution, and found that if magnesium carbonate is present in more than very small quantities, calcium carbonate becomes practically insoluble. He concludes that no fertile soil can contain material proportions of magnesium carbonate, for if it did, the lime would become practically insoluble, and the plants would die of lime starvation.

THE main benefit of the soils is assigned to the use of lime, owing to the favourable effect of this agent on the physical condition of the soil. The addition of 1.2 per cent. of quick-lime greatly improved the soil, and an application of 3.6 per cent., while injuring the vegetation, completely deflocculated the soil, while the application of gypsum produced still better results. The subsoil water was found to be very rich in sodium carbonate, a condition which the experimenters consider to be the cause, rather than the result, of the sodium carbonate in the soil.

THE value of green manuring, both as a means of enriching the soil and of maintaining its physical condition, is well recognised. There is, however, another rôle which it plays in this connection—that of increased aeration of the roots of crops. The practice of green manuring, say Messrs. Harrison and Alger, by increasing the output of the soil gases, brings about an increased activity on the part of the bacteria in the soil surface film, resulting in an increased oxygen production and root aeration, inducing a greater root development and cropping power.

### THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

#### ANTIGUA—The Services of Dr. Olliphant.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, NOVEMBER 24th.—The weather conditions for the past fortnight have been favourable, fine rains having fallen all over the island. Still, the Windward district needs more, though St. John's has had all it required.

A three-masted schooner from South Carolina has been wrecked off the north coast of Barbados on her voyage to Martinique. This is the third vessel wrecked off the island in eighteen months, and the need for a lighthouse is again emphasised.

A successful Pierrot entertainment and sale of fancy-work in the Deanery grounds has produced £60 for our men at the front.

The threatened resignation of Dr. Olliphant from the medical service has caused quite a stir, and an influential committee has petitioned the Government to create the post of Visiting Surgeon to the Holberton Institute and to offer it to the Doctor, who is a very successful surgeon who has saved many a life. The people of Antigua, and especially the labouring classes, would much regret his departure.

#### BARBADOS—Promising Crop Prospects.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., DECEMBER 3rd.—The recruiting of our second half-company for the British West Indies Regiment is proceeding, and we hope to give them two months' drilling before their departure.

The weather continues to be good, and the crops are full of promise of a fine return. If the price of sugar during the coming crop season should fortunately be as good as that of last season, planters will get back some of what they have lost during the years of low prices, and, in some parishes, of short crops. It will be a special boon to those who made short crops last season. We are very busy at present putting in the plants for the crop of 1917. A few windmills are at work making syrup from the pieces of cane left after cutting the plants.

#### BRITISH GUIANA—The Colony's Reserve Fund.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, NOVEMBER 30th.—The Government Secretary has reported on the Reserve Fund of the colony, from which it appears that at the time of the outbreak of the War the Fund stood at the high figure of \$518,901, and was reduced after eight months of war to \$245,937, \$60,171 of the expenditure having been for special war expenditure. Owing, however, to heavy outlays on loans for sea defences and other works in connection with the colony, there was, on the 31st March, 1915, a deficit of \$467,903 in the Reserve Fund. The Combined Court has met, and the proceedings were mainly concerned with the subject of education. The Governor has visited the village of Beterverwagting, and has presided over a public meeting in connection with the Young People's Improvement Society.

#### BRITISH HONDURAS—Mr. Grabham's Arrival.

MR. G. E. Grabham, the new Manager of the Belize Estate and Produce Co., Ltd., arrived on the 21st November, accompanied by Mrs. Grabham. In a letter dated November 30th Mr. Grabham wrote:—On the 28th the colony was pleasantly surprised by a visit of H.M.A.S. —. Unfortunately, the visit was a very short one of two days only, and the town had no opportunity of entertaining the officers and crew in the way they would have liked.

November has been an unusually wet month. Trade is very dull, and there is no export of mahogany or logwood to record, practically all exports being at a standstill owing to the difficulty of obtaining freight. This, we hope, will shortly be remedied, and we were glad to hear a few days ago from His Excellency the Governor that he was in telegraphic communication with the Colo-

nial Secretary on the matter. The annual hiring season will soon be on us, but it is anticipated that it will be on a very small scale.

War news still absorbs all our interests, and our spirits rise or fall as the daily telegrams come in. We were glad to hear of the safe arrival of our Contingent, and we feel sure they will give a good account of themselves. A local fund has been started to provide for the dependents left behind, and the sum collected already approaches a substantial figure sufficient to guard against any distress.

#### ST. VINCENT—Cotton suffers from the rain.

MR. W. N. SANDS, NOVEMBER 27th.—We are sorry to hear the news of the death of Lance-Corporal James Browne, of the local Contingent for Active Service, as a result of a bicycle accident at home. Browne was a very promising lad, and was one of the first to come forward and offer his services. Crops are now coming in, and planters are wondering whether they will be able to get ships to come to take away their produce in good time.

The weather of the past fortnight has been very wet. The cotton crop has again suffered a good deal.

#### TOBAGO—The Local Steamer Services.

It is not possible to do more than summarise Mr. G. D. Hatt's letters, dated Nov. 26th and Dec. 2nd and 8th, which arrived as the CIRCULAR was going to press. In his first letter he stated that through the efforts of the Rev. Herbert H. Cole, a Wesleyan minister and an old English volunteer, a meeting regarding recruiting was held on December 2nd with good results. The regrettable withdrawal of the coastal steamers, which Mr. Hatt felt should never have been sanctioned, has led to delay in delivery of the mails. Mr. Robert S. Reid wrote from the Windward district that the weather had been fine, though on November 24th the rain amounted to four inches in 24 hours, which resulted in some landslips. The Department of Agriculture had discontinued the distribution of cotton-seed owing to the disturbed conditions of the cotton market. Further extracts from Mr. Hatt's letters will be given in the next CIRCULAR.

#### TRINIDAD—The Rights of Alien Enemies.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, NOVEMBER 22nd.—A Gazette Extraordinary informs us that Sir John Chancellor, Governor of Mauritius, will be the next Governor of Trinidad and Tobago. His record is read with interest and appreciation, and we are agreeably interested to know that he is in the full vigour of early middle age. We want a strong man, both in mind and body, and it looks as if our wish will be gratified. It is an open secret that the Chamber of Commerce not long ago addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies pointing out the urgent need and the great opportunities for such a Governor in this growing and progressive colony. Too often in the past, as was pointed out by the Chamber, has it been regarded as a special prize in the Service awarded rather in respect of long and meritorious performance of duty, than with reference to the fitness of the one selected for so important a position.

A meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 19th, was rendered specially interesting by reason of a debate in the course of which certain of the unofficials spoke with quite refreshing warmth on a matter in which they carry the sympathy of the country. Under the Alien Enemies' Ordinance, 1915, the Governor's decision with regard to the disposal of alien enemies and their property was absolute. The Attorney-General now introduced an Amending Ordinance to give the alien the right of appeal to the Courts in such cases. The unofficials vigorously protested that if any change were made in the law it should be in the direction of greater stringency, and quoted the Attorney's previous opinions against himself now. More in sorrow than in anger, Mr. Gollan, of the silver tongue, replied that he withdrew not one word from any previous utterance, but this was a matter of imperial policy straight from "our masters in Downing Street," and he begged them to swallow it with the best grace they may. This they did by withdrawing from the

table when the vote was taken. The Hon. Adam Smith then, at the instance of the Chamber of Commerce, asked what had become of the money raised by the special loan in the Colony which, according to the Governor, when introducing the Ordinance authorising the loan, had stated was to be used for the new railway station urgently wanted in Port of Spain, and other public works. The reply was rather bewildering. £70,000 had been raised, of which the public are surprised to learn that £7,430 has already been expended on the railway station. The piles have certainly been driven, and the old shanties that did duty for a station have been removed from what are to be the sites of the new, and a lot of hideous hoarding erected, producing an appalling eyesore for strangers as they land, which we are now told is to remain indefinitely until better times. The good citizens who provided the money at 4 per cent. just to keep things going and money circulating are naturally very wroth. The excuse, I understand, is that materials have risen to such an extent as to render the expense unjustifiable. But why was this not thought of when the money was asked for, only in February last? It is another instance, I fear, of the Governor proposing and someone else disposing. Then the Acting Governor's Minute on the Estimates for 1916 was read. It appears on the whole a satisfactory document. The revenue is estimated at £1,011,291, and the expenditure at £1,924,281. The estimated deficit of £12,900 will be met from the surplus balance. To meet the position, £34,725 will be raised by an emergency fund and £9,110 extra from Customs.

The best news for some time is that the United British Oilfields, which for some time has been a regular and large producer, struck another wonderful well last week on their latest field, the Parry lands. It gushed about 160 feet from an 8 in. pipe. Large quantities were saved, but once again a small fortune in crude oil covered the Gulf and swept out with the current to the ocean. It is said that at least 100,000 barrels were thus lost. This well is in the neighbourhood of the famous Stollmeyer well. The Trinidad Leaseholds now announce that in 1916 they will be prepared to give extensive deliveries of both crude and fuel oil from their shipping depot at Point a Pierre. They have already run a jetty out there into the comparatively deep water, which alone at that part of the western coast attains any depth suitable for near approach of ocean-going vessels, and the pipe line approaching it is rapidly nearing completion. All round oil is looking up.

DECEMBER 4th.—At a meeting of the Legislative Council held yesterday, it was announced that there would be no more recruiting for the Public Contingent till the Spring. Following the cessation of the Ocean Mail Contract, it was announced in Council that the Round the Island and Tobago Service is in future to be performed by one instead of two boats, and the subsidy reduced from £7,250 to £3,625.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of November, 1915, have been as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
B. N. America ... ..	59,600
United Kingdom ... ..	299,260
United States America ... ..	872,836
France ... ..	356,780
British Guiana ... ..	1,000
Other British Colonies ... ..	30,824
Total for November ... ..	1,611,300
Shipped previously ... ..	44,258,053
Total from 1st January ... ..	45,869,353
To same date, 1914 ... ..	61,638,496
" " 1913 ... ..	46,431,247
" " 1912 ... ..	49,472,755
" " 1911 ... ..	43,499,702
" " 1910 ... ..	53,684,899
" " 1909 ... ..	45,480,098
" " 1908 ... ..	39,790,047
" " 1907 ... ..	35,062,616

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

### The Climax Boiler.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—As one who has seen something of the working of boilers in Sugar houses in various parts of the world, I was much interested in the article which appeared in the CIRCULAR of the 30th ult. on the subject of the Climax boiler.

Of this boiler, for Sugar house work on a large scale, it would be impossible to speak in too high terms, as between it and any other water-tube boiler now in use there is absolutely no comparison.

With regard to the origin of this boiler, there is some doubt. About the time that Morrin's Climax boiler appeared in Lorrillard's factory in Jersey City, I found a small boiler of somewhat similar design in the scrap-heap of a sugar factory in one of the Spanish West India Islands. This antiquated wreck, which was said to have lain there since the time of an American ownership, was without the beautiful outward, upward, and inward curves so well shown in Fig. 2 in your article.

These curves, while giving perfect clearance to each tube, permit a most important increase in the heating surface. They were, I believe, designed by a highly talented draughtsman named Wrightman, whose modesty kept him from appearing in connection with the boiler.

Referring to the setting of the boiler, as shown in Fig. 1 in your article, and in the advertisement, page xii., having had a long and altogether pleasurable and satisfactory experience of the behaviour and performances of a powerful group of these admirable generators, I may perhaps be pardoned for pointing out a very important mistake. In these figures the boiler is shown as standing on a level with the paving of the flue entrance. To attempt to operate it so constructed would end, after a week's continuous work, in the foot of the central column, the feed-pipe inlets, and the manhole covering being buried in slag. It would, in fact, make the boiler quite unworkable.

The subjoined rough diagram may serve to show a setting which carried these boilers through a long period of unparallelled success.

Furnaces and pedestals stood in a pit 7 ft. 6 in. below the level of the factory floor.

I am pleased to think that attention has at last been called to this magnificent boiler. Much might be said in connection with it.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

December 13th, 1915.

X.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Sugar Beet in Ireland.

Replying to Mr. Field, M.P., on December 14th, Mr. Birrell stated that the results of experiments conducted in 1911, 1912, and 1913 showed that sugar beet of good quality could be grown in Ireland. It was not proposed to repeat the experiments.

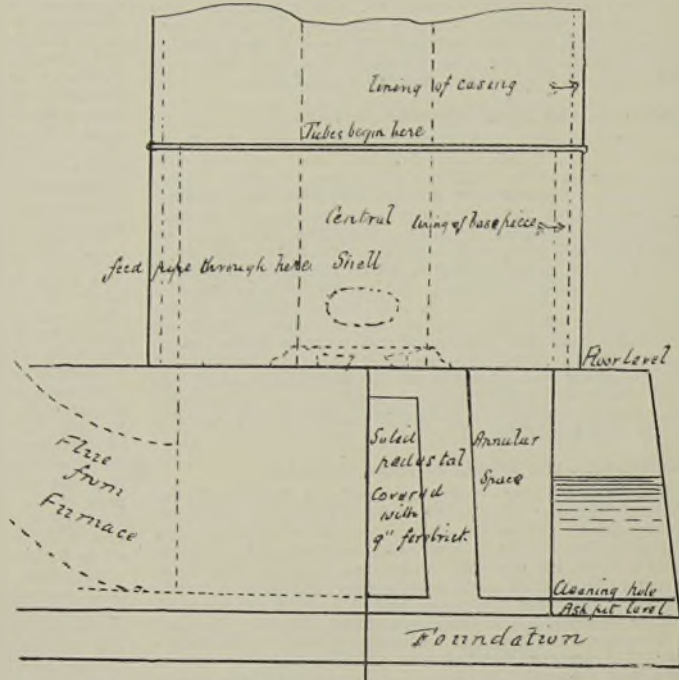
### Copra Exports from Ceylon.

Replying to Lord Charles Beresford on December 8th, Mr. Runciman said that 172 tons of copra were imported

into this country from Ceylon in 1913, 14,460 tons in 1914, and 37,004 tons in January to November inclusive this year. There were no re-exports of such copra to Holland in 1913, but in 1914 and during the first eleven months of 1915 re-exports amounted to 3,892 tons and 27,580 tons respectively. At present direct exports of copra from Ceylon to Holland are prohibited, and the re-exports from this country are all consigned under licence to the Netherlands Oversea Trust, which guarantees that they will not be re-exported to the enemy.

### Shipping Freights.

In the course of a reply to Sir Edward Golding on the subject of the Excess Profits Tax, on December 8th, the President of the Board of Trade stated that the whole



ELEVATION OF A SUITABLE SETTING FOR A CLIMAX BOILER WHEN GREEN MEGASS IS USED AS FUEL.

question of shipping freights was being carefully watched by the Government.

### East Indian Immigration.

On December 20th Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India had recommended the abolition of the indentured labour system; and, if so, whether the Secretary of State had disposed of such recommendation.

Mr. C. Roberts (Comptroller of the Household), who replied said: My right hon. Friend has asked me to reply to this question. He has recently received a communication from the Government of India dealing with the objections entertained to the present system under which labour goes from India to the Colonies, and with its disadvantages, and outlining suggestions for a possible solution of these difficulties. The question is still in a preliminary stage and requires further consultation of the Government of India, as well as of other authorities interested in the matter. My right hon. Friend will not, therefore, be able to make any definite statement regarding it for some time.

### COLONIAL APPOINTMENT.

Major John Alder Burdon, C.M.G., has been appointed Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis in succession to Mr. T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G.

Major Burdon, who has been Colonial Secretary of Barbados since 1910, will be the recipient of many congratulations upon his well-deserved appointment to an Administratorship. In succeeding so capable and popular a Government servant as Lord Basil Blackwood in Barbados, Major Burdon had a high reputation to maintain in the Colonial Secretariat; but he upheld it without difficulty, and we believe that his departure from the island will cause widespread regret. It will be a matter for disappointment to residents in the Presidency to which he now goes that he will not be accompanied by his wife, who won golden opinions in Barbados, where she was responsible for initiating and carrying through many good works, inasmuch as she is temporarily "Somewhere in France" nursing our sick and wounded. It will be remembered that Major Burdon, besides administering the Government of Barbados on various occasions acted as Administrator of Dominica for some months, during which he initiated the most practical road scheme that has ever been propounded for the island.

### 2nd Lieut. Meredyth Owen.

Mrs. Owen, widow of the late 2nd Lieut. Meredyth Owen, has received a letter from Colonel Young of the 9th Welsh Regiment, giving particulars of the gallant manner in which her husband (son of Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.) met his death. Colonel Young wrote:—

"I am most grieved to tell you that your husband was killed on 25th while most gallantly leading his platoon in an assault on a desperately strong position. He was absolutely fearless, and cheered up his men at the start by jumping on the parapet and kicking a football off towards the Germans and shouting, 'Come on, boys,' and away they all went most magnificently. We all loved him; he was so absolutely fearless, and yet so quiet, modest, and gentle. He was a man indeed, and is most deeply grieved by us all. I enclose a small portrait which we found in his pocket with a written request that it should be sent to you if he was killed. We lost 13 officers out of 20, and 350 N.C.O.'s and men out of 750, all in a few minutes from machine gun fire principally, though we were also being shelled as well. All these splendid boys were magnificent, and the country can ill afford to lose such men."

### WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

#### Angostura Bitters (Dr. J. G. B. Siegert & Sons), Ltd.

The year ended September 30th showed a net trading profit of £11,732 12s. After applying £2,055 12s. 11d. to advertising, legal expenses and trade marks registration, and after payment of London expenses, there remained a net profit of £7,421 15s. 1d. Of this amount the Directors placed £742 3s. 6d. to reserve, leaving with the amount brought forward last year, a total of £8,012 2s. 11d. available. An interim dividend on the preference shares to March 31st last at the rate of 3 per cent. for the half-year having already been distributed, there remained a balance of £5,462 2s. 11d., out of which the Board recommended the payment of a final dividend for the six months to September 30th, 1915, on both preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent. for the half-year (making a dividend for the year at the rate of 6 per cent. on the preference and 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares), together absorbing £5,100, leaving a balance of £362 2s. 11d. to be carried forward to 1916 account.

In their Report, which, with the accounts, was adopted at the annual meeting on December 6th, the Directors state that, in spite of the War, the preference dividend has been maintained without difficulty, and that while Continental markets have been lost owing to the War, the sales in other markets have been very encouraging.

The Directors hope that the worst effects of the War on the Company's business have now been felt.

At the annual meeting Mr. Henderson, the Chairman, who presided, emphasised the fact that the Company was essentially a British one, the bitters being manufactured at Port of Spain and the ingredients coming from within the Empire.

#### The Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd.

Sir Corbett Woodall presiding over the annual meeting of this Company in the absence of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Thomas Cochrane, said that the action against them had terminated in their favour with costs. The Directors hoped to be able to close up the affairs of the Company and distribute among the shareholders the "C" shares held in the United British Oilfields of Trinidad. As, however, they could not secure the safeguard they considered necessary, they proposed for the time being to continue the existence of the Company. It was satisfactory to observe that the deficiency shown on the balance sheet of the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., at December 31st, 1913, was reduced during the year 1914 by a sum of £2,038 19s. 2d. The results for the year 1915 would not be available for some months after the close of the year. It was hoped that as soon as the refinery was fully at work the price obtained by the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. for its production would be appreciably increased, for this price was dependent in its turn upon the price which the Refinery Company obtains for its products.

#### The United Fruit Company.

The magnitude of the operations of this great American corporation is shown by the annual report to September 30th last. The total net earnings were \$7,614,569.66, including \$4,993,165.96 from bananas and other tropical fruits and the transportation and merchandise business, \$2,476,876.12 from the sugar business, and \$144,527.58 miscellaneous income. The net income for the year after deducting interest charges was \$5,900,521.70. Against this, four dividends of 2 per cent. each have been paid, amounting to \$2,927,544.00, leaving a surplus for the fiscal year of \$2,972,977.70. With the amount brought forward, this makes a total at credit of income account of no less than \$16,565,382.60, or, after deducting a special allowance for depreciation of property in Central America of \$3,445,247.84, and \$919,552.28 credited to income account for the Insurance fund, a surplus on September 30th of \$14,039,687.04.

The war seriously interfered with the distribution of bananas in the Continental markets, and this condition still continues, so far as the central countries are concerned, but since winter began the English business has been highly satisfactory, so that the net results for the past fiscal year from the European business as a whole compare favourably with previous years. In the United States the business has shown a constantly improving tendency throughout the year.

The sugar cane crops at both Banes and Preston, Cuba, were somewhat smaller than in the previous year, as a consequence of climatic conditions, but the exceptionally high prices resulted in larger net earnings than in any previous year. The sugar mill at Banes produced 126,103,080 lbs. of sugar and 3,460,063 gallons of molasses, and the Nipe Bay Company's sugar mill at Preston produced 110,224,000 lbs. of sugar and 2,403,829 gallons of molasses. The output for the previous year was 147,713,320 lbs. of sugar and 3,108,485 gallons of molasses at Banes, and 157,864,040 lbs. of sugar and 3,811,238 gallons of molasses at Preston.

The Company's American fleet comprises twenty-three ships in active service. One new ship was added during the year, two should be ready for service in a short time, and four others are in process of construction. Two were sold within the year, and one was lost at sea, for which insurance has been recovered in full. Three newly-built ships were added to the Company's British fleet, and a fourth is due for delivery in 1916. Of the ships comprising

this fleet, the Admiralty has taken seven under charter on favourable terms. One of the ships engaged in the Admiralty service was lost, presumably by the explosion of a mine, and full value for it has been received.

#### Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

Mr. T. J. Milner, moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts at the second annual meeting of this Company on December 15th, said that work had been concentrated on the Forest Reserve at the western end, of which they had an area of about 150 acres, which should yield a considerable tonnage of oil. A well put down on the eastern end of Forest Reserve came in satisfactorily, and that additional information proved the existence of payable oil sands at both extremities of the property on the anticline which ran through its entire length. In the middle of the property indications were not quite so favourable for the presence of oil as in the western and eastern portions.

Out of a total of nine wells drilled, or drilling, at June 30th last, seven were yielding a steady and satisfactory production of oil of high quality. Nine were now producing oil, and others were in course of drilling. According to a cable received, the oil in storage at the present time amounted to 15,500 tons, of which about 14,000 tons were contained in earthen reservoirs, the balance being accumulated in closed steel tanks, four of which, of a capacity of 2,000 tons each, had recently been installed on the field. The stock in the earthen reservoirs was practically fuel oil, the lighter constituents having evaporated. Production from the wells drilled had been restricted as much as possible in order to avoid the accumulation of large stocks of oil in open reservoirs pending the provision of transport facilities and ample closed tankage accommodation. Recent drilling had disclosed the presence of two additional oil sands, making five in all, in the upper tertiary formation, and hopes were entertained that the lower tertiary would also prove oil-bearing. At Guayaguayare, in January and February last, several of the wells sunk by the former lessees of that property were cleaned out, and during a fortnight's test gave a production of 400 tons of a high-grade light oil. In the absence of adequate storage capacity and transport facilities, it became necessary to seal up the wells as far as possible and to close down until such time as the Company was in a position to develop the field on an extensive scale. From the little knowledge they possessed concerning that field at the present time, the prospects appeared to be favourable. The agreement with the Trinidad Government to lay their pipe line along the railway was signed in March last, and subsequently they obtained the Government's permission to connect their Forest Reserve field with the railway by pipe line laid along the public road. The length of line laid was 19 miles out of a total distance of approximately 26 miles. In addition, construction work was being hurried forward with all possible dispatch.

They had a most promising field in Forest Reserve. Analyses showed the oil to be of excellent quality, and every endeavour would be made to turn it to the best account for the Company. When the pipe line was completed, their production was expected to be, in the first instance, at the modest rate of about 1,000 tons a week, but the extent of future operations would be largely governed by the market they found for their oil. The pipe line should be receiving oil next spring. As to the financial position, at the end of June there still remained £35,000 uncalled against the loan of £60,000. With their heavy commitments that balance became exhausted. They had been able to arrange with the Central Mining and Investment Corporation for further advances up to £75,000. Those advances would be repayable on June 30th, 1917, and they carried interest at 6 per cent. per annum. In consideration of the loan, the Central Mining and Investment Corporation had been granted an option on 37,500 shares at par to June 30th, 1917. The total number of the Company's unissued shares now under option was therefore 97,500.

## THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

**BANK RATE** stands at 5 per cent. as from 8th of August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 97½, Old War Loan at 89½. Consols stand at 58½.

The financial feature of the fortnight has been the issue of 5 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, in values £100 to £5,000, to run for five years, and issued at par.

**SUGAR**—A quiet time has prevailed since last Summary, and there is nothing of especial importance to chronicle as regards the markets generally. Perhaps the most interesting event has been the sale of American granulated in New York for Russia. Earlier in the year, when the forcing of the Dardanelles was on the cards, considerable apprehension was felt as to the liberation of Russian sugar and to the effect upon the world's price of sugar. As the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR pointed out at the time, there was little chance of any Russian sugar being available, even if the Dardanelles were opened to Russian traffic. Now we know that, so far from her exporting sugar, Russia is actually in the market as a buyer. Not only has the Russian crop suffered directly from the War, but indirectly from the loss of sugar from beets drawn and exposed to moist and comparatively warm weather. There is also the increased consumption of sugar to take into account. These causes have led to a condition of things which must not be lost sight of in calculations as to the future of sugar. Coincident with Russia's requirements, France will also be wanting more sugar than last year. The present crop, according to M. G. Durcan, will not exceed 131,000 tons, expressed as refined sugar, as against 297,000 tons last year. The world's supplies will, therefore, have to be drawn upon for an additional 150,000 tons or so more than last year on this account. Then, again, although the Argentine crop just concluded reached 300,000 tons, a considerable reduction is probable in next year's crops, which Messrs. Willett and Gray estimate at 175,000 tons. There is, therefore, a probable shortage from these causes in view next year to the extent of nearly 300,000 tons, apart from the likelihood of a Russian demand. There is, however, a fuller Java crop to be taken into consideration, now suggested by the condition of the growing canes, as well as the big sugar crop practically assured to Cuba. This in our last we estimated at 3,200,000 tons, and more recent advices from Cuba give Himely's estimate as being 3,175,000 tons. Cuba will, therefore, probably supply the world next year with 600,000 tons more sugar than it did for the year now ending.

In this connection it may be noted that the question of the early or late start of the Cuban crop has been settled. The weather lately has been favourable for ripening the canes, and this and the large crop to be reaped has caused a rapid commencement of grinding. On the 18th inst. 55 factories had commenced work, against 44 last year. The total number of centrals engaged in taking off the last crop was 177. Of the crop just ended, 363,580 tons had been exported to the United Kingdom up to the 8th inst., as against 231,789 tons for the whole of the 1913-14 crop.

Recent advices from Mauritius point to considerable trouble from want of shipping. The Government crowded the port with craft long before any sugar was available, and now the converse appears to have taken place.

Mauritius sugar bought at 17/6 f.o.b. has just been sold in London at 30/3. After deducting the duty, 9/4 per cwt., the Commission received 7/6 per cwt. for freight, insurance, etc., and profit.

The Durban Agricultural News has published some interesting figures regarding the Australian sugar industry. In 1902 the production was 98,795 tons, the imports 93,444 tons, and the exports 3,336 tons. In 1914 the production was 246,408 tons, the imports 17,125 tons, and the exports 13,071 tons. This was almost wholly cane sugar, the beet production in 1913 being 857 tons, and in 1914, 601 tons. Last year 8,898 tons were imported from Java, 670 tons from New Caledonia, and 508 tons from New Zealand.

In the United Kingdom there has been no sign, in spite of the Christmas season, of a shortage of available cubes



and granulated, and in America Messrs. Willett and Gray estimated on the 9th inst. that 500,000 tons of domestic beet would be on the market during November, December, and the early days of January. With this and the early new crop Cuban sugar, the United States should get on well, and be able to tide over the tight season. It must, however, be borne in mind in this connection that between 300,000 and 350,000 tons of new crop Cuban are earmarked for January-March shipment for Europe, and that new disturbing factors, such as the possible considerable calls from Russia, may at any time occur to modify considerably the position of supplies.

Although at present the question as to whether Germany makes sugar or not does not affect the outside markets, it is interesting to note that it is reported by the Central News from Magdeburg that the majority of the sugar refiners in that district have been obliged to close on account of lack of labour and raw material.

German sugar refiners have been having a literally golden time of late, and the German Socialist Press has been calling attention to the big dividends paid by some of them. Thus, the Baden Sugar Refining Company, after exceedingly heavy payments into reserve, has just declared a 21 per cent. dividend, as compared with 12.83 per cent. last year. The Hamburg Sugar Trade Union, with a capital of £100,000, made a profit of £58,300.

The question of the internal price of sugar has also arisen in France. There is no price limit there, and the refiners have been exploiting considerably the situation arising from the crop deficiency. The Minister of Commerce has taken the matter in hand, and has intimated to the sugar brokers that the French Government possessed sugar which it could afford to get rid of at a comparatively low figure, and further that the British Government was in a position to assist them with sugar from their large stocks. Particular attention has been drawn to the subject in France by the £240,000 profit recently declared by the Say Refinery. In England, under the stern supervision of the Sugar Commission, refiners have to be contented with a modest 25 per cent. dividend.

In the London market grocery crystallised has been scarce. At auction sales on the 17th a small lot of 80 tons Demerara were disposed of after considerable competition at steady prices, realising from 29/9 to 31/-. Prices improved on the 21st, when 1,710 bags of Demerara crystallised were sold at 30/- to 31/-, an increase of 3d. per cwt. on previous rates. At the same sale Barbados muscovado sold at 27/3 to 27/9. The duty on the latter would be in the neighbourhood of 6/9 per cwt., while the grocery crystallised would have to pay about 8/-. On account of the Christmas holidays no sales have since taken place. Cubes (Tate's No. 1) are now quoted at 40/-; fine granulated 33/- and 32/9; American granulated 32/6; and white Mauritius 30/3.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to December 18th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	52,932	31,060	39,585	27,151	35,195
Deliveries ...	47,621	37,927	29,476	29,720	35,892
Stock (Dec 18) ..	11,323	6,085	11,949	1,921	3,663

The New York market for 96° sugar has been stronger since the date of the last Summary, but after some fluctuations now stands at \$13.64. There has also been some decline in granulated, which is now quoted at \$5.85. Cubans for March delivery have been sold at \$2.90 f.o.b., and spot sales for Europe are reported at \$3.50 f.o.b.

**RUM**—The market remains quite firm, with no change in price to record. Proof Demerara may be quoted at 3/3 to 3/5, and ordinary Jamaica at 4/4 to 4/9.

The stocks in London on December 18th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Jamaica ...	6,290	6,954	6,666	7,382	8,890
Demerara ...	3,979	5,423	6,399	5,695	4,612
Total, all kinds ...	21,099	18,549	20,259	21,359	22,053

**COTTON**—Since our last report the sales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been confined to odd bags of stained cotton at from 10d. to 11½d. Prices continue firm. The number of bales of West Indian cotton im-

ported into the United Kingdom for the year up to the 16th December was 5,100.

**COFFEE**—The dullness of the market still continues, and the large supplies offered at auction have met with very little demand. No business has been done in Jamaica. The nominal value may be given as 50/- to 54/- per cwt. for good ordinary to fine ordinary greenish.

The imports for the eleven months of the current year amounted to 1,468,164 cwt., as against 931,095 cwt. for the corresponding period of last year. The exports were practically the same as last year, being 584,119 as against 565,541 cwt. The exports to Germany were 171,065 cwt. less, and to Holland 162,013 cwt. more, than last year.

**CACAO**—No auction sales have taken place since the date of last Summary owing to the Christmas holidays, and the market generally is very quiet. Nominal spot quotations may be taken as being 94/- to 95/- for Trinidad and 84/- to 91/- for Grenada.

The imports of manufactured cocoa for the eleven months of this year were 251,318 cwt., as against 174,814 cwt. for the corresponding months of last year. The exports for the same periods were 45,720 cwt. and 7,870 cwt. respectively. The consumption of foreign cocoa and chocolate has therefore greatly increased.

The stocks in London on December 18th were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Trinidad ...	7,879	5,666	9,496	4,039	3,946
Grenada ...	1,929	4,191	4,705	2,011	8,631
Total, all kinds	102,384	58,872	70,351	67,746	94,867

**COPRA**—The market is very firm, and quotations have advanced to £31 10s. per ton. There are no sales of West Indian to report.

**COCONUT OIL**—Market has been steady. Ceylon hogsheds are quoted at £51, pipes £49 spot. Cochin values for spot are £51 to £53.

**LIME PRODUCTS**—Lime Oil—Distilled is selling slowly at 6/6 per lb. There is no demand for handpressed. Lime Juice: There have been small sales of raw Jamaica at 2/9, and Dominica 2/6. Concentrated is unchanged at £23.

**SPICES**—Nutmegs are dearer; 100/80's may be quoted at 6d. to 10d.; 120/100's at 6d.; 140/120's at 5½d. to 6d. Mace is unchanged at 2/- to 2/4 for good to fine; 1/6 to 1/11 for red to good; 1/- to 1/5 for blood red to medium red; and broken at 8d. to 11d. Ginger is firmly held, but there is no demand at the present moment. Pimento somewhat easier. Sales have been made at 2½d., but sellers' price is 2½d.

**ARROWROOT**—Sales of about 300 barrels are reported at 2½d. to 2½d.

**HONEY**—There have been no auctions since last Summary, and quotations are unchanged.

**RUBBER**—The market for all kinds has been very firm, with prices ranging higher than at the date of last Summary. Fine plantation may be quoted at 3/7, with smoked sheet at 3/6½. Fine hard Para is saleable at 3/3½, with soft at 2/11. The value of Castilloa is 2/8 for sheet and 2/2 for scrap.

**BALATA**—There has been rather more enquiry for Venezuela block, and a fair business has been done up to 2/1 net. Sellers' price is now 2/1½ net spot, with c.i.f. quotation 2/1. The value of Panama block is 1/8½ landed terms. Business has been done in unselected West Indian sheet at 2/5½ landed terms.

**WOODS**—Fustic is quoted at from £6 to £7; Jamaica Logwood £8 to £8 10s.; Cedar Honduras, 4½d. to 7d.; Lignum Vitae, £4 to £15; Honduras Mahogany 5½d. to 7d.

**TIMBER**—British Guiana Greenheart, £14 to £13 per load of 50 cubic feet.

**PETROLEUM OIL**—The market has been easier, and American is now quoted at 9d., with water white at 10d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Hon. A. G. Bell	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. A. Cameron	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. H. D. Scudamore
Mr. A. Campbell	Mr. W. E. Jackson	Mr. F. B. B. Shand
Dr. C. F. Castor	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. Clement Malone	Mr. E. C. Skinner
Mr. Arthur E. Clodd	Mr. A. L. McCall	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Dr. J. H. Cooke	Mr. T. W. O'Neal	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. P. L. Guppy	Mr. A. B. Perkins	

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.  
 Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex.  
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessell Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.  
 Mr. T. L. Dunsire, c/o T. L. Mason, Esq., 35, Rood Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. J. Freland Foote, Thornton House, Wisborough Green, Sussex.  
 Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Ardath, Esber, Surrey.  
 Mr. Wm. McLaren, 1, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.  
 The Rev. Dean Sheperd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.**

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices Dec. 27
4 %	Antigua Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Barbados Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1915	94
3 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1923-43	78 1/2
4 %	Grenada Redeemable 1917-42	88 1/2
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1934	97 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1919-49	83 1/2
3 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1922-44	75 1/2
4 %	St. Lucia Redeemable 1919-44	95
4 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1917-42	94
3 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1922-44	74
6 %	The Colonial Bank	99 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	86
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	88 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	90 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	90 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	94 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	12 - xd
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	6/104
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	3 1/2
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	7
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-50
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	100-105
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	70-75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
1 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	21 1/2
6 -	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	88
6 -	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. "2nd "	88
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	90 1/2

**STEAMER SAILINGS.**

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland, Canada and the United States for the next few weeks.

**FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination
Jan. 10	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	D.
.. 12	Booker Line	Arakaka	Liverpool	H.
.. 12	"Direct" Line	Salybia	London	A, B, E, F, G, I.
.. 20	Leyland Line	Belgian	Liverpool	K, L, M, N.
.. 24	Elders & Fyffes	Covina	Bristol	D.

**FROM HOLLAND.**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination
Jan. 14	Royal Dutch	A Steamer	Amsterdam	B, E.
.. 28				

**FROM CANADA.**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Jan. 14	R.M.S.P. Co.	Chiguecto	Halifax, N.S.	{ A, B, E, F, G, I.
.. 28		Chaudiere		{ K, L, M, N.

**FROM THE UNITED STATES.**

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Jan. 18	Trinidad Line	Mayaro	New York	L, E, B.
Feb. 1		Maraval		
Jan. 21	Quebec S.S. Co.	Pirema		G, F, K, M, A, B.
Feb. 1		Korona		
.. 8		Quiana		

A. Barbados; B. British Guiana; C. British Honduras; D. Jamaica; E. Trinidad; F. Antigua; G. St. Kitts; H. Nevis; I. Montserrat; K. Dominica; L. Grenada; M. St. Lucia; N. St. Vincent.

The folders of the principal shipping companies whose steamers call at West Indian ports can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

**THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.**

MESSRS. BOOKER BROS., MCCONNELL & CO., LTD.—Sailings from Liverpool for Demerara per S.S. *Imataka*, December 23rd.

Mr. C. H. Bagot	Mr. J. H. Haigh	Mr. J. M. Roze
Mr. S. W. Fitt	Mr. F. A. Mackay	Mr. H. Speight
Mr. C. R. Fox	Mr. T. A. Peacock	Mr. R. J. Williams
Mr. L. Franklin	Mr. T. A. Pope	

**THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.**

A further list under this heading will be published in next issue.

**Wounded.**

Fitt, Norman A. (son of Mr. H. B. Appleton Fitt, formerly of Barbados), of the 4th City of London Royal Fusiliers, who has been in action at Ypres, Neuve Chapelle, and Festubert, has been wounded and gassed, and is now in hospital at Lower Clapton.

**EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.**

British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
Jan. 1 to Nov. 14, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Nov. 6, 1915	1914
Sugar	84,501	75,195 Tons.	831 Puns.
Molasses			3,642,212
Rum	3,642,212	2,476,353 Pf. Gls.	1,290,259
Molasses, &c.	1,941	1,890 Tons.	1,033,292 Galls.
Cacao	58,174	41,937 lbs.	7,198,688
Coffee	172,336	238,767 ..	7,448,784 lbs.
Coco-nuts	1,764,020	1,739,996 No.	6,274,576
Oranges			6,243,104 ..
Bananas			22,573,540
Citron			25,251,255 No.
Pimento			18,079,820
Ginger			9,109,850 ..
Honey			7,956,627
Dye-woods			15,356,419 Stems
Gold	47,239	55,945 Ozs.	36,114
Diamonds	4,929	9,517 Carats	33,257 lbs.
Rice	16,952,062	12,184,668 lbs.	74,902
Balata	1,415,777	928,534 ..	74,082 Cwts.
Rubber	2,249	895 ..	10,172
Timber	109,194	191,976 cub. ft.	124,110
Lumber	182,099	242,248 ft.	143,977 lbs.
Lime (citrate of)	17,177	11,091 lbs.	47,052
			55,952 Tons.

Trinidad.		Barbados.	
Jan. 1 to Nov. 17, 1915	1914	Jan. 1 to Oct. 28, 1915	1914
Sugar	49,863	46,515 Tons.	31,669
Molasses	4,815	3,464 Puns.	51,416
Rum	6,644	1,258	102,351 Puns.
Coco-nuts	10,722,119	12,824,575 No.	
Asphalt	89,769	117,611 Tons.	
Manjak	496	232	
Bitters	15,786	14,493 Cases.	
Coffee	10,020	15,920 lbs.	
Crude Petrol	9,704,453	12,602,748 Galls.	
Cacao	43,614,600	61,567,800 lbs	
Cotton			
Seed			
Copra	20,946	11,315 Bags.	11
Spice			199,710
Kola			235,575 lbs.
			1,330
			1,030 ..

Grenada.		
Oct. 1 to Nov. 14, 1914/15	1913/14	
Cacao	1,696,320	633,520 lbs

Dominica.		
Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1915	1914	
Cacao	555,184	516,768 lbs.
Limes	35,272	39,411 barrels.
Lime Juice, raw	342,941	160,647 galls.
" .. concentrated	20,143	40,575 ..
" .. Citrate of "	540	2,762 cwts
Lime Oil, distilled	944	1,936 galls.
" .. equalled	235	663 ..
Hardwood	25,231	69,911 feet.
Bananas	2,039	2,309 stems.
Coco-nuts	299,656	391,484 No.